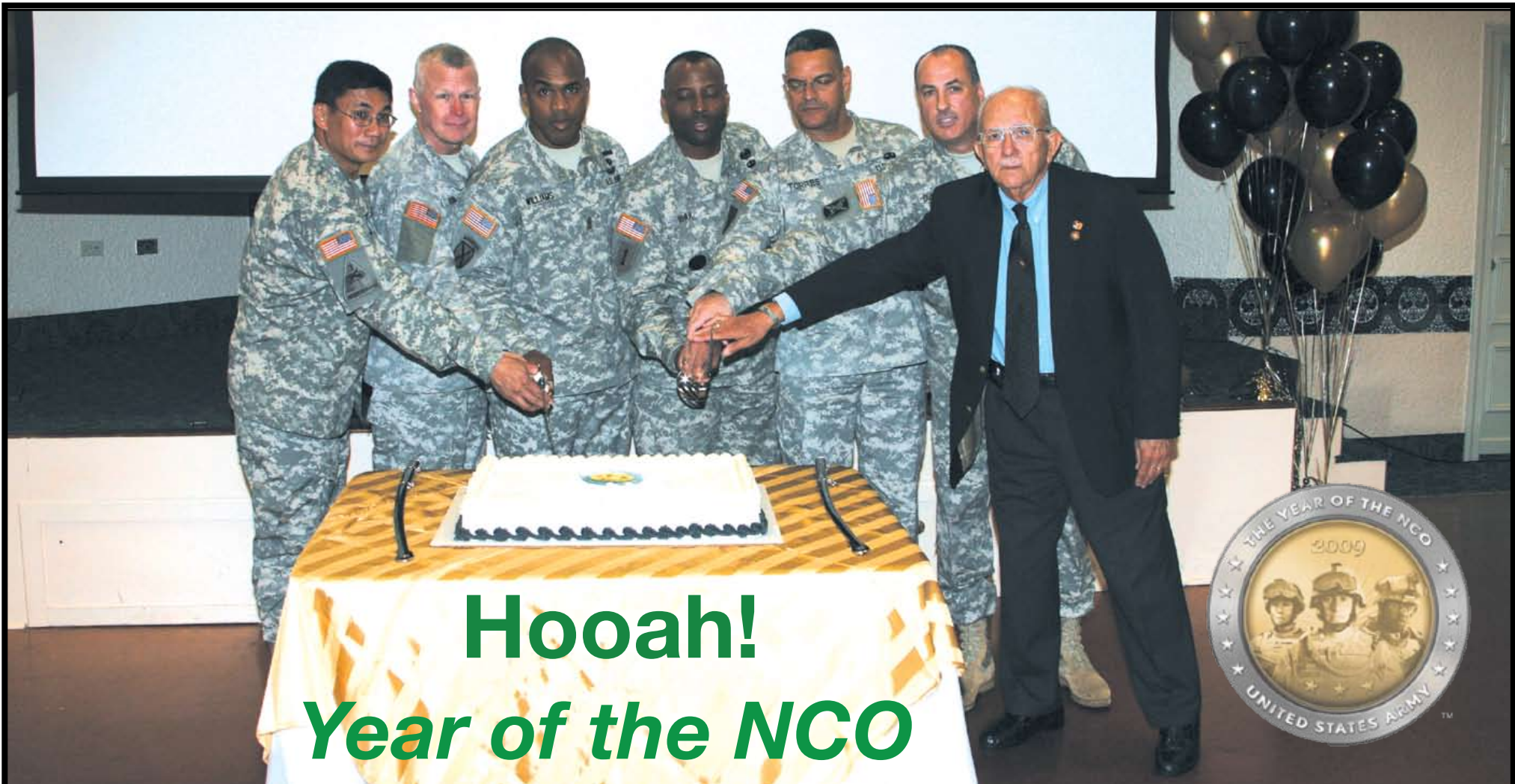


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March 2009



Hooah! Year of the NCO

Leo Martinez

Celebrating The Year of the NCO, left to right, were Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo; Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, commanding general, 81st Regional Support Command; Command Sergeant Major Melvin Williams Recruiting Command; Command Sergeant Major Charles Durr, 81st Regional Support Command; Command Sergeant Major José Torres 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion (TAC); Command Sergeant Major David Davis, Fort Buchanan; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Felix A. Santoni.

Buchanan celebrates The Year of the NCO

Senior leadership comes together in an event at the Fort Buchanan Community Club to honor non-commissioned officers of all branches of the service. Story in pictures — Page 10.



CW5 Jesse Singleton, Sr. spoke to Fort Buchanan employees and Soldiers during African-American Black History Month celebration. More on the celebration begins on Page 4.



Odette Ortiz, director, PAIO, is one of the women profiled for this year's Women's History Month. Read more about some of the outstanding women employees at the garrison on Page 9.



Magda Figueroa, Fort Buchanan Executive Officer, receives a Superior Civilian Service award during presentations at the garrison Feb. 24, 2009. More civilian awards on Page 11.



FROM THE COMMANDER:



Col. Edwin C. Domingo
Garrison Commander

March 2009
—
Taking care of
Soldiers

It is imperative that all Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and family members understand the individual suicide risk factors and warning signs and take action to intervene on their behalf.

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan is committed to protect the entire force and a key task in the Army, Installation Management Command and IMCOM Southeast Region is the requirement to complete Suicide Prevention Training by every Soldier and civilian in the Army. Army Suicide Prevention is considered a leadership issue and leadership involvement is expected at every level. I need your personal focus, efforts, and energies to stem the tide of suicides in our Army. We are losing the Army's most valuable resource and we as leaders must take action now. Army leadership is committed to reversing the trend of increasing suicidal behavior in the force. Commanders and first line supervisors will engage their Soldiers, civilians and family members in three phases of training program.

During the period of February 15th through 15 March 15th, we will conduct the Phase I of the Army Suicide Prevention. Phase I is a stand-down to increase awareness of suicide risk factors and warning signs and to encourage intervention for at risk Soldiers and civilians. The stand-down day will offer an opportunity for individual units and Soldiers to address problems head on, and will include the latest training videos, materials and methods to identify symptoms and prevent suicide. The stand-down will be followed by another 120 days of a "chain-teaching" program, which is Phase II of Army Suicide Prevention and intended to be leader-led suicide prevention training, cascaded across the entire Army. The stand-down period and chain-teaching program are mandated training in addition to quarterly and other suicide awareness and prevention training that may occur at the unit level already. Phase III is sustainment that initiates with Phase I, passes through Phase II, and continues indefinitely through annual training require-

ments. Any loss of life, especially by suicide, is a tragedy. That tragedy impacts the unit and its morale. It's extremely important that we conduct this stand-down and chain-teaching program.

Fort Buchanan is committed to providing resources to enable everyone to understand the factors responsible for suicides and to identify effective prevention and intervention measures to reduce suicides in the Army.

Also, help is only a phone call away for veterans considering suicide. Nearly 100,000 veterans, family members or friends of veterans have reached out for help by calling the VAsuicide prevention hotline at 1-800-273-TALK. The hotline initiative is part of a collaborative effort with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a nationwide network of 133 crisis centers. Calls automatically are routed to the nearest center based on the caller's area code. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by trained mental health professionals prepared to deal with immediate crisis. Although the lifeline isn't restricted to

military veterans only, callers are prompted to "please press 1 now" if they are a U.S. military veteran or are calling about a veteran. Callers who press 1 are transferred to the nearest VA call center. It is imperative that all Soldiers, DA civilians, and family members understand the individual suicidal risk factors and warning signs, and take action to intervene on behalf of fellow soldiers. The Army is committed to protect the entire force and conducts training to impress the fact that Army Suicide Prevention is a leadership issue, and leadership involvement is expected at every level. "This is not business as usual."

At Fort Buchanan, help is available by calling the Chaplain's Office at 707-3904 or 231-7610; Army Community Service at 707-3292; Rodriguez Army Health clinic at 707-2043 and Army Emergency Relief Office at 707-3310.

Shoulder to shoulder, no one stands alone. Army Strong!! Family Strong!!



CSM David Davis
Fort Buchanan
Command Sgt. Maj.

February 19, 2009 Fort Buchanan celebrated the Year of the NCO with a formal ceremony at the garrison's Community Club. Among

The Year of the NCO — leadership by example

the senior leaders attending the event were Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, commanding general, 81st regional Support Command, the Region Director of Installation Management Command Southeast Davis D. Tindoll, Jr., Region Command Sergeant Major Installation Management Command Southeast Charles Durr, Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo, representatives from the 1st Mission Support Command, Community Based Warrior Transition Unit, 402d Civil Affairs Battalion (Tactical), U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, Puerto Rico National Guard and distinguished members of the Puerto Rican community.

The American non-commis-

sioned officer is a historical blend of French, British, and Prussian armies into a uniquely American institution. For nearly 234 years the U.S. Army's noncommissioned officer corps has distinguished itself as the world's most accomplished group of military professionals.

Through the war of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq and in recognition of their commitment to service and willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, the Secretary of the Army established 2009 as "The Year of the Non-commissioned Officer." In concert with the Army's celebration of the NCO, most, if not all official events

on Fort Buchanan, will have an NCO theme.

Today's NCOs are key, pivotal figures in our Army's full spectrum of operations. They operate autonomously and always with confidence and competence. They're empowered and trusted like no other non-commissioned officer in the world. In fact, most advanced armies in the world today are going to school and studying our model because there is little doubt that we are the backbone of our armed forces.

An NCO learns quickly that respect is something that has to be earned. Respect is not issued to you with a set of orders and a set of stripes. Respect is something you earn by taking

care of the Soldiers that you train and supervise and prepare for combat.

The respect you gain through properly training your soldiers to succeed and in ensuring they and their families are taken care of may not always make you popular. It takes a unique leader to be both liked and genuinely respected. Never confuse the two and never sacrifice respect because you want your Soldiers to like you. It is far more important to consistently do the right thing.

Living, implementing and teaching our values and respective service creeds in our daily duties further develops and instills the critical leadership

See CSM — Page 17



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Command Sergeant Major
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The Editor reserves right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in El

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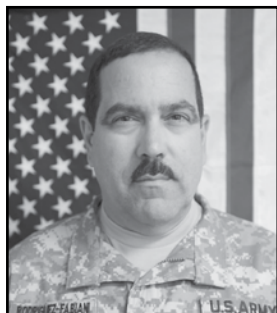
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Army Warrant Officers — what do they do?



CW5 Jose Fabiani
1st MSC

The rank of warrant officer has a long history. For example, evidence suggests that Napoleon used warrant officers as communications links between his commissioned officers and the Soldiers.

The military grade of "warrant officer" dates back two centuries before Columbus, during the fledgling years of the British Navy. At that time, nobles assumed command of the new Navy, adopting the Army ranks of Lieutenant and Captain. These royal blood officers often had no knowledge of life on board a ship, let alone how to navigate such a vessel or operate the guns. They often relied on the technical expertise and cooperation of a senior Sailor who tended to the technical aspects of running the ship and operating the cannons. These Sailors, sometimes referred to as 'Boat Mates' or 'Boswans Mates' became indispensable to less experienced officers and were subsequently rewarded with a Royal Warrant. This Royal Warrant was a special designation, designed to set them apart from other Sailors, yet not violate the strict class system that was so

prevalent during the time.

What is a Warrant Officer?

Warrant Officers are technical and tactical leaders who specialize, throughout an entire career, in a specific technical area. The Army Warrant Officer Corps comprises less than three percent of the total Army. Although small in size, the level of responsibility is immense and only the very best will be selected to become Warrant Officers. Benefits include extended career opportunities, worldwide leadership assignments, and increased pay and retirement benefits.

Who applies to become a Warrant Officer?

- Applicants who want to make a difference.
- Applicants who want to advance their careers.
- Applicants who want to stay in their career fields.
- Applicants who want better retirement pay for family.
- Applicants who desire more post military career opportunities.

An applicant must meet these seven Administrative Requirements before applying for the Warrant Officer Program —

1. U.S. Citizenship (No Waivers).
2. General Technical score of 110 or higher (No Waivers).
3. High school graduate or have a GED (No Waivers).
4. Secret security clearance. Interim secret is acceptable to apply, except for WO MOS 882A.
5. Pass the standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test and meet height/weight standards (Can apply for an APFT waiver).
6. Pass the appointment physical for technicians or the Class 1A flight physical for 153A (Flight = 18 months / Technical = 24 months).
7. All Applicants must have 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.

Contact me if you want to be the quiet professional and replace me! E-Mail to jose.rodriquez6@usar.army.mil.

1st MSC in the news...

- Combat life saver training, Pg. 18.
- 273rd Trans. Det. deployment , Pg. 19.
- 1st MSC Suicide Training, Pg. 19.
- 512th Trans. Detachment, Pg. 20.

With eyes closed, members of the 1st Mission Support Command participated in a Suicide Prevention Sustainment training held at Ramos Hall Feb. 12, 2009. Seated left to right are Laura Oyola Rios, Management Service Specialist; Staff Sgt. Saby Calo, training NCO, 271st Human Resource Company and Staff Sgt. Virgen Rodriguez Ramos, 271st Human Resources Company administration sergeant.



Capt. Anthony John



Puerto Rico's newly elected resident Commissioner paid a courtesy visit to Fort Buchanan March 2, 2009 to meet with garrison and community leaders. Pictured, left to right, are Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Félix A. Santoni; 1st Mission Support Command Executive Officer Col. Miguel Issac; Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi; Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo and Puerto Rico Advocate for Veterans Affairs Jorge Maas.

Fort Buchanan confronts suicide prevention

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Ken Lawson
Installation Chaplain

Suicide is a major problem in the United States.

In the U.S. military, there also is a suicide problem.

From 2005 through 2008 the suicide rate in the Army has increased about 10-12 percent each year, but in January 2009 there was a huge increase in Army suicides.

This caused the Army Chief of Chaplains, the Department of the Army G-1 and the Army Chief of Staff to implement a Stand Down to allow for intense training in suicide prevention.

Suicide prevention falls under the administration of the Army G-1.

At Fort Buchanan, that means the Director of Human Resources has the lead. Chaplains assist with instruction and follow up counseling.

The acting DHR Director, Maria Morales and Gisela Apon- te Alcohol and Drug Control Of- ficer have worked closely with the Religious Support Office to provide the mandatory training.

Maria Morales stated, "I strongly believe in suicide pre- vention training and I am taking it very seriously."

"I've learned that you need to really pay attention to your Soldiers and try to know what is going on in their lives outside of work. It may save a live," she said.

Throughout late February into early March, each director- ate at Fort Buchanan will re- ceive suicide prevention training at the Chapel Annex.

The primary instructors, Gisela Apon- te and Chap. (Capt.) Eric Miletti, will teach the materi- al to small groups of Soldiers, civilians and family members.

Gisela Apon- te, a primary instructor for the suicide preven- tion training, said, "The message I try to convey, is that we all know what the training says, but we have to know when to apply it. It is easy for leaders to look at their ranks a find the guy or girl that looks like they need help; but we must also be ready to look at our peers, our command team partners, our families, and yes... even ourselves to know when someone needs help."

There are numerous risk factors for suicide. Some of the more common risk factors are previous suicide attempts; drug or alcohol abuse; domes- tic violence; recent significant losses; psychiatric or serious medical issues; or having access to weapons. Some will show no warning signs and on an impulse or in rage or disappointment will make a hasty and irrational deci- sion to end their pain by suicide.

Typically, only a fraction of the population will commit or attempt suicide. Unfortunately, even while watching for warning signs, suicide remains unpredictable.

Staff Sergeant Angelica Thompson, NCOIC of the chaplain's office, stated that, "Suicide prevention in the Army is very necessary at this time. We have persistent conflicts in two wars which places a great strain on soldiers and families."

"Soldiers face financial issues and marriage & family stress which can be acted out in dangerous ways," Thompson said.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Ken Lawson, the Ft. Buchanan Installation Chaplain, commented, "Soldiers and families will differ in how they emotionally and spiritu- ally process their experiences. Soldiers in the reserve compo- nents are especially vulnerable to financial stress, as they do not always have the security of a full-time military paycheck. Many people have financial problems but very few attempt suicide. Financial security is not the issue. The issue is looking beyond your temporary distress to helpful and hopeful long-term solutions."

"In suicide prevention train- ing, we try to present options, skills, and hope. In options, we teach how the system can help those in distress and uncertainty, who can help them through their difficult experiences. In skills, we teach how to emotionally and intellectually think and act in helpful ways and to watch for the signs of destructive behav- ior. The teaching of hope is crucial to combining the options and skills of suicide prevention. Hope allows the person to look beyond their pain and above their problems to receive help from others. Religious faith is a key element of hope, as is a supportive family or social network."

Chap. (Capt.) Eric Miletti, representing the Chaplain's Office, stated, "I am happy that God can use me at such a time as this to help the Fort Buchan- an community. It is important to understand that in these stressful days there is more than one way to develop suicidal behavior."

"There can be physical, social, emotional or spiritual issues involved. Life is our most important resource to encounter God's grace and hope. Let's keep living, helping, teaching and modeling by our example, how great it is to be alive," he said.





African-American Black History Month — “Quest for Black Citizenship in Americas”

Singleton looks to Black history as a guide for the future.

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Fort Buchanan observed African-American Black History Month at the garrison Community Club Feb. 12, 2009. The observance Master of Ceremonies for the event was 1st Lt. Stephon Gardner, executive officer, 393rd Combat Sustainment Battalion. He said in his opening remarks, “Feb. 9, 2009 marks the beginning of African-American History Month an annual celebration that has existed since 1926. What are the origins of black history? Much of the credit can be attributed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson who was determined to bring black history into the mainstream of the public arena. Dr. Woodson devoted his life to making the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history. In 1926, Dr. Woodson organized the first Annual Negro History Week, which took place in the second week in February. He took this date to coincide with the birthday(s) of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln; two men who had greatly impacted the black population. Each year a theme is chosen to focus on this national commemoration. For 2009 the theme for national African-American History Month is ‘The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas’.”

The guest speaker for the event was CW5 Jesse Singleton, Sr., Chief, Accessions Branch Army Reserve Careers Division. Chief Singleton related what it was like during the years he has spent in the Army.

“I have spent 34 years in the Army and I have risen to the level of CW5. I have noticed through every step there have been challenges and those challenges have helped me grow expeditiously by knowing how to deal with people; people with all ethnic backgrounds, people of all races and color and religions — once you learn how to deal with that, you can move forward,” he said.

“As a mature Soldier in this great nation called America, I have come to the realization that the true sentiments that drive equality can be found in history. Simply put, history affords us the opportunity to examine the truth before making a choice while moving forward. The Bible states in the New Testament of John, Chapter 8, verse 32, ‘that ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’. Another writer puts it this way, ‘you will always know what to do next if you know what to do first.’ Ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you that there is a power in history. The trailblazers and pioneers of black history, mentioned by president Obama’s proclamation, gave tribute to the work of Frederick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Brooker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Thurgood Marshall. However, I would just say that that’s the tip of blacks in history. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the contributions of blacks in the military that has made a difference to the struggles of black Soldiers,” Singleton continued.

“How I see the struggle — slavery could not stop us. Jim Crow laws could not stop us. While whites tried to make us go to the backdoors, it did not stop us. Having separate and unequal restrooms and watering spouts did not stop us. The KKK could not stop us. Lynchings and beatings could not stop us. Sending German Sheppard dogs to attack peaceful folks during demonstrations did not stop us. Restricting our neighborhoods to try to win a vote did not stop us. Red lining our communities did not stop us. (There’s nothing) that can stop us because God is with us,” he said.

Then, Singleton looked forward by saying, “There’s a lot of diversity in this room and that diversity brings us together. As I see it, there needs to be a synergy that connects the past to the future.”



Marc McCormick

Army Chief Warrant Officer Five Jesse Singleton, Sr. was the guest speaker for the 2009 Fort Buchanan African-American Black History Month observance Feb. 12, 2009.

Fort Buchanan begins construction on new CDC



Senior leadership attending the Senior Mission Commander’s Conference took out time from their schedule to visit the site of a new Child Development Center for Fort Buchanan Feb.19, 2009. The new state-of-the-art \$6 million CDC is the result of the construction moratorium that was lifted last year. The CDC, along with other projects on the garrison, will contribute to the quality of life as part of the Army Family Covenant.

(Upper left) The group performing the ceremonial dedication of the site was (left to right) Leonel Torres, Department of Public Works, Engineering Division; Fort Buchanan Sergeant Major David Davis; DFMWR Director Dallas Petersen; Maj. gen. Charles E. Gorton, commanding general, 81st regional Support Command; Master Sgts. Richard and Brooke Montgomery and daughter Ariela; David S. Tindoll, Regional Director, IM-COM-SE; Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo; Deputy to the Garrison Commander Gunnar Pedersen; Child Development Center Manager Carmen Dieppa and Maria Martinez.

(Lower left) The artist rendition of what the new CDC will look like after completion.

(Right) Davis S. Tindoll, Regional Director, Installation Management Command SouthEast receives a briefing on the CDC project from Leonel Torres, Engineering Division, Fort Buchanan Department of Public Works.



Photos by Marcos Orenco



Col. Edwin C. Domingo
Ft. Buchanan Commanding Officer

Another year comes and finds us doing what we do best – working as a team to provide our Soldiers and their families with world class facilities and services. This is our way of recognizing our Soldiers' commitment to preserving our nation's freedoms.

During your visit to our installation, you are cordially invited to be a part of one of Fort Buchanan's accomplishments, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Child Development Center and

School Age Services facilities. Also, you are invited to be part of the Fort Buchanan tribute as part of the Year of the NCO observance.

Some of the outcomes of the agenda we will discuss around this table as part of the conference may not be seen immediately.

However what is evident at all times is the commitment of each and every one of us, as leaders in the best Army in the world, to improve the standards of base operations support and to promote the well-being of our community – Soldiers, families, civilians and retirees.



Leo Martinez

Senior leadership representing the Office of the Army Reserve, Installation Command garrisons, 1st Mission Support Command and Fort Buchanan gathered together to discuss the future of the Reserves for the coming years at a Senior Mission Commander's Conference Feb. 17-19, 2009. The purpose of the conference was to outline strategies to pursue to fulfill mission requirements in the coming years.



Marc McCormick

During a break in the Senior Mission Commander's Conference, members took time out for a special presentation to the Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo. Cub Scout Pack Assistant Cubmaster Miguel Ortiz, left, and Pack Cubmaster Roberto Garcia watched as Michael Ortiz presented Col. Domingo with a token of their thanks for the support the garrison provides them. Cub Scout Pack 505, Wesleyan Academy, Guaynabo, periodically holds activities at the garrison. Families with children living on the post who have boys interested in Cub Scouts can obtain information by visiting Web site www.scouting.org and entering the geographical area in which you live. More information can be obtained by calling 789-7225.

Buchanan Senior Mission Commander's Conference a strategic success

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, hosted a Senior Mission Commander's Conference February 17-19, 2009 at the garrison.

The conference was attended by the commanding generals of the Army Reserve's Regional Support Commands as well as various Installation Management Command Garrison commanding officers, who provide support for Reserve components and activities.

The conference is a collaborative effort for senior commanders to put forward present and anticipated future operational requirements and while there is a conference every year, this one highlighted planning through 2017.

With input from the commanding generals of the Regional Support Commands, a coordinated strategy throughout the Reserves is being forged on unified efforts concerning training, assets and providing the Army Reserve with the resources it needs to carry out the national mission.

Col. Steve Dalzell, Director for Strategy & Integration, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, was one of the primary briefers for the group. Dalzell brings a deep understanding of decision making in dynamic systems to the Reserves through his doctoral work in comparative public policy. His dissertation, on how Egyptian society sought to reform housing policy in the 1990s, was fundamentally a study in how ideas about problems and solutions come to the surface and how leaders deal with them. "The idea that policy changes come from interested individuals researching, networking, and developing collaborative solutions applies to any group," he finds.

Dalzell has seen the process working inside the Army Reserve as well, saying, "There are ideas that I worked on when I was a major in St. Louis (the former Army Reserve Personnel Command, now part of the Army Human Resources Command) that are still out there waiting for the right mix of conditions, leadership and resources to execute. That's true whether it's a country trying to solve housing policy or the Army Reserve doing personnel management."

Between 2009 and 2017 is when the heavy lifting will be accomplished that defines the Army Reserve strategy. "We are trying to establish a process where we focus, for now, on an end state at the 2017 mark. Only by putting that end state that far out that we can then decide what we prioritize in terms of legislation, structure and personnel policies to put us on the path (toward realizing the Reserve's goals of mission support)." This includes understanding the current and future challenges seen by Reserve and IMCOM commanders, Dalzell noted.

Refocusing an enterprise requires patience, stamina and a clear cut vision of what is practically possible, particularly in a continuously changing institutional environment.

"There are very long time lines," Dalzell said. "You need to build your coalition; you need to get ideas out there on the table. The CAR (Chief of the Army Reserve) realizes that to get the operational Reserve he sees in the future involves legislation. Legislation happens through a long process of teaching Mem-

bers of Congress and congressional staffs what the Army Reserve does and needs; getting proposals into the public debate; and doing the studies that quantify what you actually need in terms of resources, so that five years from now you can have the authorities and resources to execute (your mission requirements). It's a long process."

The Army Reserve is undergoing continual transformation, as is the Army as a whole, and that has impact on the ground, as they say.

"There are several major pieces which come together in the near term," Dalzell said. "One of these is within the Total Army's change to a Core Enterprise focus for running its institution, and the Army Reserve will be adapting as well so that we can stay meshed within the Army structure." The future of the Army Reserve depends on how it adapts legacy systems to the challenges," Dalzell feels. Much of the adaptation involves personnel management and how it supports the unit structure. "The Employer Partnership Initiative is one dramatic change in how we work with employers – a true paradigm shift in how we see our Citizen Soldiers developing in their careers," he explained. "We are forging a team approach that sees the combination of the military profession and a civilian career not as a conflict but a collaboration."

Internationally, Dalzell also noted, the Army is developing the Army Campaign Support Plan, better defining how the Army as a force provider works with geographic combatant commanders to support what they're trying to do in their area of operations. "Within that, the Army Reserve is clarifying how we participate in helping, for example, Southern Command. We want it to complement the training cycle for our units and not conflict with what the units are doing to get ready for their next operational deployments."

In the end, conferences such as the Senior Mission Commander's Conferences promote the collaboration necessary for the end game — identifying the strategies the Army Reserve needs for mission accomplishment in the 21st Century. These strategies will lead to solution sets that the Chief of Army Reserve can take to decision makers in Congress and the Administration, so the Army Reserve can make its greatest contribution to national goals.



Col. Steve Dalzell



Leo Martinez

Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton (foreground), commanding general, 81st regional Support Command and Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo work on strategies to pursue fulfilling mission requirements in the coming years.



AER director dispells controversy – annual campaign begins

Robert F. Foley
Director Army Emergency Relief

Washington Times — It is unfortunate that the Associated Press chose to run a story which wrongly infers that Army Emergency Relief withheld financial assistance from Soldiers and Families during a time of need. The article focused on the following:

“Between 2003 and 2007- as many military Families dealt with long war deployments and increased numbers of home foreclosures – Army Emergency Relief grew into a \$345 million behemoth. During those years the charity packed away \$117 million into its own reserves while spending just \$64 million on direct aid according to an AP analysis of its tax records”

The facts are as follows —

- Between 2003 and 2007, Army Emergency Relief distributed a quarter of a billion dollars in financial assistance to 258,000 Soldiers and Families.

- AER does not hold any funds in reserve. All of our assets less \$9 million in restricted accounts and the receivables from interest free loans are available at all times to meet the needs of our Soldiers and their Families.

- Investment capital available for support to Soldiers and Families today is \$190 million. This is fully invested at all times to insure a fair rate of return. Our investment portfolio provides interest and dividends which increases the level of funds available and is a ready resource in borrowing funds to meet requirements for loans and grants in support of emergency financial assistance and scholarships.

- AER has always met the need for financial assistance. No Soldier or Family member has ever been denied financial assistance for a valid need due to a lack of funds. There is no limit on the amount a Soldier may request and no limit on the number of times a Soldier or Family member can request assistance.

- In 2008, AER provided \$83 million to 72,000 Soldiers and Families. 24 percent of that amount was in the form of tax free grants and 76 percent was for interest free loans. Soldier repayment of interest free loans account for 65 percent of available funds and provides a cash-flow that is used to respond to future needs by Soldiers and Families.

- In 2003, children and spouses of Soldiers on active duty and retirees received \$3.6 million in scholarships (all grants). In 2008, Army Emergency Relief scholarships increased to \$13 million. From 2003 to 2008 the total amount of assistance has steadily grown.

Year	Amount of Assistance	Number of Soldiers Receiving Assistance
2003	\$37.4 million	44,000
2004	\$39.5 million	43,000
2005	\$43.9 million	47,000
2006	\$57.7 million	57,000
2007	\$73.5 million	67,000
2008	\$83.0 million	72,000

- The April/May 2007 Report of the American Institute of Philanthropy gave Army Emergency Relief a grade of A+ for “percent spent on program services and cost to raise \$100.” The grade of “F” referenced in the article is not based on the amount of funds spent on programs but is derived from the arbitrary criteria used by Daniel Borochoff, the President of AIP, that organizations with assets of more than five years have their grades automatically reduced regardless of a charity’s goodness in providing high quality services.

- In a letter dated Oct. 31, 2008, Charity Navigator, one of the leading charity evaluators in the nation, notified Army Emergency Relief that it earned a third consecutive 4-star rating, their highest rating for “its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Charity Navigator further stated:

El Morro Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Headquarters Army Emergency Relief announced the start of the Army’s Annual AER Campaign, which runs to May 15, 2009. The theme of this year’s campaign is “Adding Strength to Army Strong.”

With the current challenges facing Soldiers and their families, the need for AER assistance continues to grow. Last year, AER provided a record \$83 million in assistance to more than 70,000 Soldiers and their families representing a 12 percent increase over 2007 assistance levels. On an individual basis, assistance cases ranged from a non-interest loan to a young Specialist travelling home to a grandparent’s funeral to helping a retired Staff Sergeant meet unexpected higher home energy bills when fuel prices rose rapidly in mid-2008.

The purpose of the Army’s annual AER Campaign is twofold according to Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Robert F. Foley, Director of Army Emergency Relief. “First, to create greater awareness of the Army Emergency Relief benefits and programs available to Soldiers and their families,” and secondly, “to provide Soldiers an opportunity to help their fellow Soldiers by donating to Army Emergency Relief.”

Founded in 1942 in response to Soldiers and their families needing financial

assistance during World War II, AER continues to provide emergency financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans or outright grants. In addition to emergency assistance, today’s AER provides scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, and financial support to surviving families of fallen Soldiers, and grants to widows and Wounded Warriors.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their families, wherever they are located and the amount of assistance is only limited by valid need.

Soldiers and their family members requiring AER assistance may contact the unit chain of command or go to their local AER office.

On the garrison, the AER office is located in Bldg. 1019, Garcia St., Fort Buchanan. The telephone number is 707-3310.

Full details on AER’s assistance program can be found by contacting Arlene Romero, AER Officer, by calling 707-3310 or through email to arlene.romero@us.army.mil.

More information can be obtained through Web site www.aerhq.org.



Spc. Todd Goodman

Lt. Gen. Robert F. Foley (Ret.) presents a check to Pfc. Daniel Roberts

Employee, labor relations course offered by Fort Buchanan

Fabiana Nevado
Ft. Buchanan CPAC

This three day course, March 10-12, 2009, is a comprehensive course in basic Employee and Labor Relations concepts and best practices for civilian and military supervisors of Army civilian employees, both APF and NAF.

This course was developed by the Civilian Human Resources Agency and customized by the local civilian personnel advisory center.

This training will assist and provide options to managers and supervisors in dealing with common employees’ behavior and performance situations as well as dealing with unions.

There will be case studies, group work, and interaction between the participants. Take note of the exact course number.

Instructions to get to Bldg 79/Rm 20,21,22 —

- Coming from the Welcome Center, turn right after the Clinic on Chrisman Rd/ Miles Loop. Following the narrow road you will see on your right a small play yard. Immediately on your left, you will be able to park your car. If you do not find space for your car, continue down the road, pass Bldgs. 75 and 73 (right hand), and you will see a large parking space on your left (across is the Bowling and Auto Shop).

- Coming from the Front Gate, turn left by the entrance to the Golf Court. Follow instructions above.

Bldg. 79 is located by walking towards the corridor in the building in front of the first small parking space. Walk towards your right. You go behind/around the corner and the building is at your right hand in front of you.

Any questions, call course manager, Fabiana Nevado at 707-3925 or cell at 549-1323 or 939-579-6505.



I.G. overtseps responsibilities in non-support cases

Lt. Col. Larry Sefren
SAIG-ID

Consistently over the last seven years, Inspector General have identified Soldier non-support of family members as the number one IG issue based on the total number of cases and workload.

As a result, in November 2007, The Inspector General directed that Inspections Division, Department of the Army Inspector General Agency, conduct an inspection of the application and effect of Army non-support policies.

The "Inspection of the Application and Effect of the Army Policy on Financial Support to Family Members" was completed in March 2008.

The inspection made several significant findings.

For example, most leaders did not see the resolution of non-support cases as a significant detractor from mission readiness and Soldier welfare.

Most company commanders had few if any cases during their command tenure, and those that did resolved most of them with Soldier counseling.

Although most company commanders were not initially trained in the Army policy on non-support, they learned "on the job" with their first case.

Commanders and SJAs stated that few non-support cases rose to the battalion level.

Most commanders, SJAs, and IGs think Army Regulation (AR) 608-99, Family Support, Child Custody, and Paternity, provides adequate guidance to resolve non-support issues.

AR-20-1, Inspector General Activities and Procedures, clearly states that the resolution of nonsupport of family members is a command responsibility.

IG responsibilities are limited to ensuring that the family's immediate basic needs are met and that the commander is aware of all complaints and takes appropriate action.

Of concern, the inspection identified that most IGs, though well meaning in their intentions, were exceeding the scope of their IG responsibilities in their efforts to resolve non-support cases.

Most IGs were engaged in actions that fell under the responsibility and authority of commanders, SJAs, and Army Community Service personnel.

These misguided efforts increased the IG workload.

In general sense, non-support of family members is not IG appropriate.

The IG's role is to tend to the family's immediate needs, make the commander aware of the complaint, teach and train both the commander and complainant on the basic precepts of AR 608-99; and, when necessary, investigate commanders for failing to take

appropriate action.

But, if requested, IGs can assist commanders and other IGs in gathering documentation — especially when the Soldier is deployed or geographically separated from the family members.

In their attempts to be proactive, however, many IGs were overstepping their regulatory authority by collecting some or all documentation before notifying commanders of the non-support complaint.

As a result, the commander did not have the proper opportunity to work the issue.

Moreover, in most cases the IG became a liaison between the complainant and the commander.

More troubling, IGs sometimes assumed the role as advocate for the complainant — a clear compromise of the IG's fair and impartial fact-finding status.

The inspection also found instances where IGs actually bypassed the commander and directly contacted the Soldier cited for non-support.

On some installations, Inspector Generals are acting as the proponent for non-support by teaching commanders and first sergeant courses as well as providing unit training during in-processing, out-processing, and Soldier Readiness Programs before Soldier and unit deployments.

These actions are the responsibility of commanders, judge advocate personnel, and Army Community Service as identified in AR 608-99; AR 20-1; and AR 608-1, Army Community Service Center.

On many installations and in many units, IGs have become the de facto proponent organization for resolving non-support issues. During the inspection we saw numerous instances where the IG was identified on Web sites, in briefings, and verbally as the "go-to" point of contact for non-support issues.

Some of these sources were IG and SJA products demonstrating that there is a significant misunderstanding as to the IG's role.

Note: An extract from The Inspector General Information Bulletin article.



The total Army Family — We are stronger together than apart

Wilda Díaz
Family Advocacy Pgm. Mgr.

Many children and youth are affected by their parents' deployment.

They can better adjust to challenges of deployment with the support from their parents, family members, and the community.

According to Chartrand, et al., Arch Pediatric Adolescent Med. 2008, a recent finding is that some young children exhibit behavioral responses such as stress and depressed symptoms.

The community can have a positive impact by helping and supporting the parents left at home.

The presence of friends, volunteers, professionals and other family members can make a real difference in the lives of these families.

Taking action and being proactive can indeed help to prevent child abuse/neglect. We need to pursue family abuse as a priority.

For this reason, the Family Advocacy Program is providing Fort Buchanan community with child abuse/neglect and family violence awareness and prevention activities throughout the year.

Join us in different activities during the month of April — Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation event will be held April 3, 2009 9:30 — 11 a.m. at the Fort Buchanan Community Club. Contact the Family Advocacy Program at 707-3698/3709 for dates and upcoming activities.

I encourage everyone to protect our children by recognizing, responding, and reporting ALL child abuse and neglect!

A parent's guide to preventing child inhalant abuse

Myrna M. Llanos
Fort Buchanan Substance Abuse Pgm.

March 15 - 21, 2009 has been designated National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week. Talk to your children about inhalant abuse.

It is as simple as parents being unaware of this problem until it is too late. If you have never heard of the term "huffing," "sniffing," or "poppers," then prepare to arm yourself with information that could help keep your children from harming themselves — specifically with regards to inhalant abuse.

What is Inhalant Abuse?

Inhalant abuse is the intentional inhalation of a volatile substance for the purpose of achieving a euphoric state. It is the deliberate inhaling of a common household product that an individual, statistically persons ranging from 12 to 17 years of age, use to get high. According to the Alliance for Consumer Education's one in five children will abuse inhalants by the time they reach 8th grade. Children as young as six years of age, can start using, it is an under-recognized form of substance abuse with a significant morbidity and mortality.

What type of products are we talking

about?

Examples of products include —

- Industrial or household solvents or solvent-containing products, including paint thinners, degreasers (dry-cleaning fluids), gasoline, nail polish remover, glues and other adhesives

- Art or office supply solvents, including correction fluids, felt-tip marker fluid, and electronic contact cleaners.

- Gases used in household or commercial products, including butane lighters and propane tanks, whipping cream aerosols or dispensers (whippets), and refrigerant gases.

- Household aerosol propellants and associated solvents in items such as spray paints, hair or deodorant sprays, and fabric protector sprays.

- Medical anesthetic gases, such as ether, chloroform, halothane, and nitrous oxide (laughing gas).

This is just to name a few.

What are the effects of inhaling these substances?

In the short term, inhaling these products, or "sniffing" will lead to behaviors similar to alcohol intoxication that may include dizziness, slurred speech, confusion and even hallucinations and delusions within seconds. In the long term, the continued sniffing

or "huffing" or these products can lead to weight loss and severely damage many parts of the body, including the brain, heart, liver, and kidneys. Even worse, victims can die suddenly — without any warning. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, "Sudden Sniffing Death" can occur during or right after sniffing. The heart begins to overwork, beating rapidly, which could lead to cardiac arrest. Even first-time abusers have been known to die from sniffing inhalants.

What are the tell-tale signs of an inhalant abuser?

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign reports that if someone is an inhalant abuser, some or all these symptoms may be evident —

- Unusual breath odor or chemical odor on clothing.

- Slurred or disoriented speech.

- Signs of paint or other products where they wouldn't normally be, such as on the face or fingers.

- Spots and/or sores around the mouth and nose.

- Sudden nausea and/or loss of appetite.

What can I do as a Parent to prevent this from happening to my child?

One of the most important steps that can

be taken is to talk with children or other youngsters about not experimenting, even a first time, with inhalants. Visit the following Web sites to get parent-friendly information on inhalant abuse and the hidden dangers you may not be aware of.

- The Alliance for Consumer Education at Web site <http://www.inhalant.org/media/kit.php>.

- National Institute on Drug Abuse Web site at <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/Inhalants.html>.

- Department of Health and Human Services Web site at <http://family.samhsa.gov/talk/poisons.aspx>.

- Parents — the Anti-Drug Web site at http://www.theantidrug.com/DRUG_INFO/drug_info_inhalants_signs.asp.

If you suspect your child of abusing inhalants, contact your local health services as soon as possible for further assistance.

For more information on Inhalant Abuse, email me at the Fort Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program to myrna.llanos@us.army.mil, or call (787)787-3125.





New mandatory military sportbike ridercourse at Fort Buchanan

Ft. Buchanan Safety Office

The Fort Buchanan Safety Office, through its Army Traffic Safety Training Program, is pleased to announce that it will be offering the new Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Military SportBike Rider Course in March of 2009.

The MSRC was developed in close collaboration with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army safety centers to address the increasing number of military personnel who are involved in sport bike crashes. The Military SportBike Rider Course is a "next-level" training course for military riders who have completed the MSF Basic and Experienced Rider Courses. The one-day course consists of approximately three hours of classroom interactive lessons and four hours of on-cycle range time, and is taught by instructors (Rider Coaches) who have received special MSF certification to teach this course.

The classroom segment focuses on the behavioral aspects of riding such as attitude and personal risk assessment. It includes discussions about braking proficiency, cornering techniques, traction management, and characteristics unique to sport bikes.

The hands-on range session builds on these topics by providing riders the opportunity to develop and improve skills in braking, cornering and swerving.

All the information presented is an ongoing effort to provide innovative programs and curriculum developed with one goal in mind — to fulfill the mission of improving rider safety.

The Department of Defense mandates rider training and specifies an MSF course for all military personnel who ride. It now requires that riders who own sport bikes take the MSF Military SportBike Rider Course after they have completed the MSF Basic and Experienced Rider Courses.

A student pocket takeaway booklet, the "Sport Bike Survival Guide," will be provided to all military personnel who participate in the course. Written by accomplished

sport bike riding instructor Nick Ienatsch, with a foreword from Superbike Champion Ben Spies, it includes riding techniques, street strategies, handy reference materials, quick tips, and additional resources for those seeking to further their knowledge and skills.

Two courses will be given per quarter.

The first will be March 28th and the second on March 29th. Registrations are now open for this 24 seat, limited space course.

If you are interested, visit the Army Installation Management Command Registration Facility at Web site

<https://airs.1mi.org>. To register for courses, click on "View Available Courses." On the following screen, use the "Region" drop down menu and select "Southeast." Then using the "Garrison" drop down menu select "Fort Buchanan." After selecting the garrison you will be presented with a current monthly schedule of all courses for the installation. Look at the calendar below to see the courses offered by date and click on the date you desire. Fill in the student application form, submit it and you will receive an e-mail confirmation once your application is processed.

Students must provide their own motorcycle for this training along with current license, insurance, and registration. Motorcycle must be in good operating condition; headlights, horn and turn signals must function to state law. Tires must have 3/32" thread, brakes 1/16" pad remaining and must have rear view mirrors (2) per state law.

Proper PPE as outlined in Army regulations must be worn (over-the-ankle boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, high visibility vest, full fingered gloves, eye protection and DOT approved helmet).

Be among the first to experience this course. Enroll today but remember that you must have taken the MSF Basic and Experienced Rider Courses before registering.

For more information, contact the Fort Buchanan Safety Office at 2560/5699.



President's 2010 budget request strongly supports VA programs

El Morro Staff

WASHINGTON — President Obama's first proposed budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs expands eligibility for health care to an additional 500,000 deserving Veterans over the next five years, meets the need for continued growth in programs for the combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and provides the resources to deliver quality health care for the Nation's 5.5 million Veteran patients.

The 2010 budget request is a significant step toward realizing a vision shared by the President and Secretary of Veterans Affairs. If accepted by Congress, the President's budget proposal would increase VA's budget from \$97.7 billion this fiscal year to \$112.8 billion for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2009. This is in addition to the \$1.4 billion provided for VA projects in the American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The 2010 budget represents the first step toward increasing discretionary funding for VA efforts by \$25 billion over the next five years. The gradual expansion in health care enrollment that this would support will open hospital and clinic doors to more than 500,000 Veterans by 2013 who have been regrettably excluded from VA medical care benefits since 2003. The 2010 budget request provides the resources to achieve this level of service while maintaining high quality and timely care for lower-income and service-disabled Veterans who currently rely on VA medical care.

The new budget provides greater benefits for Veterans who are medically retired from active duty, allowing for the first time all military retirees to keep their full VA disability compensation along with their retired pay, among other benefits.

CAO Morales departs Buchanan

Maria Morales
Human Resources Director

Casualty Assistance Officers are uniformed servicemembers who literally and figuratively carry the fallen home.

All Soldiers dread this duty, but when it comes, you set everything aside because this mission is above all others. You'll be judged not only by your military peers, but a fallen Soldier and his loved ones. Although you never met or even served in the same unit or country, the fact that this Soldier wore a uniform means he's "family."

The Fort Buchanan community would like to say Hasta Luego to the Soldier who carried out that mission at Fort Buchanan, Lt. Col. Mario Morales.

Morales served as the CAO for the Casualty Assistance Center from January 2007 until February 2009. For this reason, Col. Edwin C. Domingo awarded him with an Army Commendation Medal for his exemplarily performance during his active duty period here. Morales will be missed and we wish him success in his future endeavors. Thank you, colonel Morales, you will be missed.



Courtesy Photos

(Top) Lt. Col. Angel Viruet, Inspector General, Fort Buchanan, presented the Army Commendation Medal to Lt. Col. Mario Morales on behalf of garrison commanding officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo for his work as the Fort Buchanan Casualty Assistance Officer.



(Bottom) Lt. Col. Angel A. Viruet, Fort Buchanan Inspector General; Lt. Col. Mario Morales, former Ft. Buchanan Casualty Assistance Office and Master Sgt. William Russell, Fort Buchanan Human Resources Division, share a moment before awarding Morales the Army Commendation medal.

Financial counseling courses at Fort Buchanan

Arlene Romero
ACS Financial Counselor

These are the classes Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will be providing until May 2009.

- March 17 — Army Emergency Relief Unit Coordinator Training for the campaign unit representatives.

- March 18 — The Art of Budgeting to identify and prioritize personal and financial goals.

- March 25 — Managing Debt and how to identify if you have more debt than you can afford.

- April 16 — The Influence of Advertising and recognizing how and when advertising techniques can influence buying decisions.

- April 23 — Too Good to be True and learning to protect yourself from consumer fraud.

- May 7 — Using credit wisely and building a better financial future.

- May 14 — Consumer Rights and Obligations and learning what happens if you fall behind in re-paying your creditors or an error is made on your accounts.

- May 21 — Principles of Personal Finance and understanding the positive effects of handling personal finances correctly.

Classes will be held at Army Community Service Center, Bldg. 1019, Garcia St. Buchanan Heights, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Spaces are limited.

To attend you must make a reservation by calling 707 - 3310 or by email to arlene.romero@us.army.mil.

Financial Readiness Program offers a range of programs which may be tailored to units and small groups.

The goal is to provide individuals with the fundamental skills necessary to be financially responsible now and in the future.





Fort Buchanan observes Women's History Month

Each year the Army celebrates Women's History Month. As part of the observance, we profile three of the many accomplished women who serve at the garrison. Throughout the coming months, we will continue to profile the women who make a difference in the lives and business practices at Fort Buchanan.



Capt. Anthony John

Staff Sgt. Maricela Barberi
1st Mission Support Command

Staff Sgt. Maricela Barberi was originally born in the United States and subsequently raised in Puerto Rico.

"I have been in the Army Reserve since January 2001, when I enlisted as a Finance Specialist and currently serve as a Financial Management Specialist originally assigned to the 338th Finance Battalion (deactivated), and then re-assigned the 413th Finance Detachment."

Barberi has been deployed twice. First to Operation Enduring Freedom (2003-2004) and then Operation Iraqi Freedom (2006-2007).

"Right now I perform and supervise administrative, word processing, and clerical duties," she said.

"I set-up and maintain logs and functional files. Answer inquiries from the primary staff and provide technical guidance on administrative matters and office management."

She also coordinates administrative reviews and follow up to OERs and NCOERs for the entire 1st MSC Command Group," she said.

"I originally chose finance because of my interest on working with numbers and being good at it. But then I found a bigger reason to get passionate for it after I got to work in the finance offices on my deployments, that's when I realized the importance and significance of the finance job."

"Most of people think that Soldiers with jobs like mine, like admin, cooks, legal, or anything that is not infantry, are not needed in "combat zones." But, they would be amazed of how essential is the support of all of these, and how equally important they are as all other jobs in the Army."

"In my case, the fact that I know that Soldiers in the desert are grateful and confident because they have a finance office available to go to withdraw cash for personal use, update changes in their entitlements, benefits or allotments; and their pay issues are taken care of, is the most gratifying feeling I experienced while doing my job," she said.

Barberi is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in management.

"I have always believed that no matter in which field you are, as long as you really care for the Soldiers, the Army, and your Country, you will be successful, because all this will bring in you the motivation, responsibility, selfless service, pride, respect, knowledge, and everything else that will lead you into excellence," Barberi said.



Marc McCormick

Odette Colon-Ortiz
Ft. Buchanan PAIO

Odette Ortiz came to work at Fort Buchanan in 1999, transferring with U.S. Army South.

"I worked at several military installations in Panama, in assignments such as, Child and Youth Services Coordinator, Army Community Services Officer, and Family Support Director," she said.

"Most of my career has been in family programs, supporting Soldiers and their families, since I hold a Master Degree in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico."

After attending the Army Management Staff College in 1996, she moved from family programs to a broader area as Morale, Welfare and Recreation Deputy Assistant for Support, and later as USARSO Community & Family Support Program Manager.

"The establishment of the Installation Management Agency brought another change in my career and I was assigned to the Southeast Region but operational to the Southwest as the Team Leader of the Regional Child and Youth Services Inspection Team," she said.

"This assignment offered the opportunity to visit different installations, see their initiatives, successful programs and work with a team of professionals from several specialties," she said.

"In 2004, homesick and eager to enjoy the beautiful weather and people in the Island, were the key motivation to apply and accept a position with Fort Buchanan Morale, Welfare and Recreation."

"In April 2007, the opportunity to make a difference came with the opening of the Plans Analysis and Integration Office Chief position. The PAIO, a relatively new office at the time, works for the Garrison Commander as the principal office developing plans, monitoring organization improvements and efficiencies," she explained.

"In summary, looking back and defining what it takes to be successful, I can say that the following are key — 1. Know your business and your people. 2. Set clear goals and priorities. 3. Lead by example. 4. Follow through, let your staff know that you will be following up and asking. 5. Reward performance. 6. Know yourself and have the emotional fortitude to accept opposite points of view," she said.

"Leading a super team of PAIO professionals who work hand in hand analyzing and achieving improvements in different areas, has been and is a source of pride to me," Ortiz said.



Marc McCormick

Carmen Dieppa-Quintana
Ft. Buchanan Child Development Center

Carmen Dieppa first came to Fort Buchanan in November of 1991. Presently, she is the Director of the Child Care Center.

She applies her professional knowledge of child development principles in supervising the Center's programming for all the age groups utilizing the facility including developmental programming to include curriculum and age-appropriate activities that promotes the social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of children in the age categories served by the CDC.

She also applies her professional knowledge of child development principles to develop, implement, and supervise the center's daily operations.

Taking care of children is the Center's prime responsibility which entails continually overseeing and evaluating center programs. She also ensures compliance with all professional and administrative guidelines and regulations concerning center program development, implementation, and management which include Department of Defense, Army, and MACOM standards for child care programs; Fort Buchanan objectives and policy as well as installation Child Care Evaluation Team recommendations.

Evolving standards and practices also require that each employee of the Center obtain accreditation for child care work. Part of Dieppa's responsibilities include mentoring employees to obtain the necessary credentials to care for their charges.

"My professional journey in early care and education aligned with my personal interests were initially ignited by parenthood. That path led me to become a teacher of young children, a Child Development Center Assistant Director, a Child Development Center Director and now a Child Development Services Coordinator. Reflecting back on 20 years, I realize how fortunate I have been to be actively engaged in a field I believe in so passionately. I have been privileged to serve in various leadership capacities at Fort Buchanan and will continue to do so since that's one of the things that interests me the most."

"I believe my strengths include envisioning the possibilities in policy, program and practices to improve the quality of care and education for young children. I am an optimist by nature and prefer to develop solutions rather than lament the problems. I impose on myself high expectations but am realistic at the same time. I effectively collaborate and communicate with colleagues to share goals and vision which I believe is the key of success."



NCOs honored at Fort Buchanan

Henry Knox, the first secretary of war, once said that Soldiers can never act with confidence until they are masters of their profession. This fundamental truth is reflected each and every day in the men and women of the noncommissioned officer corps.

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Senior leadership and Fort Buchanan employees and Soldiers from Recruiting Command, 1st Mission Support Command, National Guard and representatives from the Puerto Rico community gathered together to kick-off The Year of the NCO Feb. 19, 2009 at the garrison.

The event was hosted by Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major David Davis who said, "As you know the army has a distinctive set of values, unlike any other organization in the world, which reflects the high standards to which the entire army adheres regardless of its mission. So important are these values to the commander and me that we have them displayed on individual signs along the road. We're both very proud of that park area. As Soldiers and leaders we aspire to live them every day by having them on our dog tags as a daily reminder. These

core values are more than just rules of behavior. They are deeply rooted in the heritage that has made our organization great and they demonstrate who you are and guide your performance, conduct, and decisions you make each and every day."

"Uniformed service is where discipline is judged, in part, by the manner in which we wear the uniform as prescribed. Therefore, a neat and well-groomed appearance is fundamental and contributes to building the pride and esprit de corps essential to an effective military force. We must never forget the fundamentals that make us the disciplined and well-respected military that we are," Davis said.

"With that, let me say 'thank you' for your service to our country. I thank you for your courage and your dedication and for the untold sacrifices that you and your families make each and every day to serve our country," he said.



Photos by Leo Martinez
1st Sgt. Luis Cora, Puerto Rico National Guard, leads the assembly in reciting the NCO Creed during the garrison salute to The Year of the NCO.



(Left to right) Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major David Davis led the observance honoring NCOs and delivered the main address; Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, commanding general, 81st regional Support Command, addressed the assembled NCOs denoting their professionalism and leadership; the Antilles High School Choir performed patriotic songs and NCOs recited the NCO Creed as part of the ceremony.

Our NCOs of the Year for the month of March are Staff Sgt. Miguel A. Aponte-Cepeda, San Juan Recruiting Company and Staff Sgt. Thania Cesareo, 271st Human Resources Company (Postal)



Staff Sgt. Miguel Aponte-Cepeda — Always Army.

Aponte originally joined the service in 1978, retiring in 1998. The retired former administration specialist joined the Fort Buchanan

work force as a civilian in February 1999 working at DPTMS as an operation specialist.

Around 1997, his daughter, also in the Army, was assigned to operations in Iraq. Aponte volunteered to come out of retirement so he could be there with her.

He was turned down. Later he was recalled to active duty for two years under a program the Army runs which retirees can take advantage of.

However, he was offered a two year active duty Army job with the San Juan Recruiting Company with optionally extending it every two years for two more.

"I want to serve," Aponte said, "I am proud of the Army. The Army gave me everything and is responsible for what I am today. I tell that to all the prospective recruits I meet."

Aponte's 20 year experience comes in handy when talking with potential enlistees.

Recalling his NCO experience, Aponte tells them that, "it is a lot of responsibility, like everyone says. We (the NCOs) are always moving the Army forward," Aponte said.

Looking back over his Army career

Aponte remembers 1985 in particular. That's when the Army dropped the specialist designation (he was a Spec. 5) and reverted the designations to regular Army ranks. As a platoon sergeant, Aponte focused his attention of what every good NCO does — taking care of the Soldiers in his charge.

"How did I take care of Soldiers? I found out what they needed and saw to it they got it. Sometimes it was getting points for promotion or getting set up for college. Sometimes it was other issues related to being a good Soldier and getting them ready for the next step."

Aponte says that he will stay on active duty as long as he can.

"I'll stay as long as they will let," he said. "I owe them."

Aponte reactivated through a retiree program that can be found on Web site www.Armyg1.army.mil/MilitaryPersonnel/RetirementRecall.asp.



Staff Sgt. Thania Cesareo — Leadership by example.

Staff Sgt. Thania Cesareo, from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, was assigned to SUP OPS, 166th ASG, 65th RRC, Ft. Buchanan in Decem-

ber 2001 as an Admin Specialist. In 2004 she was assigned as a Human Resources Specialist, G-3, 65th RRC. In June 2007 she was the Postal Supervisor, 271st HRC, Ft. Buchanan and was deployed to Iraq.

During her time in Iraq, she volunteered

at the CSC Scania's Burn Clinic, which, at the time was the only one of its kind in Iraq. In her words, she tells of the experiences working at the center.

"The patients usually started arriving at the outer wire around 7 a.m. and by 9 a.m. there was usually an average of 75 patients lined up. At 9 a.m., two burn clinic workers, one interpreter and three armed guards would go to the outer wire to assess the priority level of patients. After this, we searched approximately 12 patients and allowed them into the burn clinic waiting area by the main gate."

"Once we had the first 12 patients in the waiting area, we segregated them by sex and urgency. This was because the females felt more comfortable being treated out of view of the other patients."

"Because I am female, it puts the female patients more at ease. The culture is one where it is degrading to woman to be seen out of clothing and some of the burns covered most of their bodies. Treatment for women was done by mostly females behind closed curtains except for when the burns were serious enough that a doctor was needed for medical treatment. Most of the burns women got were from cooking, boiling water, heater explosions and things that pertain to household activities."

"The children are usually very high in spirits and cheer up the workers at the clinic. However, the injuries that children sustain were mostly severe due to the small size of their bodies."

"We also treated members of the Iraqi

Army (SWAT) and Iraqi Police Officers because, as part of the coalition force, we needed to give them support too."

"Treatment for all burns usually consisted of scrubbing the burns to take off the dead tissue which accumulates on top of the burn scar and treating with a medication called "Medihoney." This medication comes from Australia. At the clinic we used our cases and treatment protocol to get FDA approval for the product. This takes documentation of patients and the treatment used over a long period of time. It has to show a certain amount of effectiveness for the medication to be approved. After working at the clinic for 9 months, I observed that the treatment did work."

"The burn clinic medical supplies depended on donations from different hospitals in the United States and Europe and by the families of the Soldiers who were touched by what we did. Donations were readily accepted to continue the work of the staff at the CSC Scania's Burn Clinic."

"I encourage everyone who can to get medical supplies, clothes and toys for these children to send them to the burn clinic so the mission and the work can continue."

"I especially thank my parents, because they were the ones who understood I didn't want to come home for R & R leave because I wanted to stay with the kids and for the many care packages you sent with toys and clothes for Iraqi families."





Garrison employees acknowledged at Townhall

Prior to the commencement of the quarterly garrison townhall, employees from the installation were honored with longevity certificates and special commendations.



Photos by Marc McCormick

5 year certificates — Leonel Roldán, Manuel O. Ramos, Luis Cruz Montez, Rafael Calo, Luis Adorno, Javier Moyet, Robert Soriano, Felix Torres Hernandez, Arnaldo Torres, Luis A. Rodriguez, José A Sánchez, Armando Figueroa and Ignacio Gonzalez Ruiz.



10 year certificates — Joseph Frattalone, Maria de los Angeles López, Pedro Lopez Vicens, Aida L. Cortes, Luis A Rodriguez and Winston Smith (not pictured).



15 year certificates — Ifraín Pagán Castro, Carlos Guzmán, Edwin Ríos, Miguel Ortiz, Jacqueline Ferrer, Hilda Bruno, Ignacio Otero, Gabriel Santiago, Graham Castillo, Grissel Rosa and Héctor Adorno.



20 year certificates — Magda Figueroa, Hilda Bruno, David Nieves, Anibal Gaud-Velez, Pascual Quinones, Robert Praetorius, Manuel Quiles and Hugo García.



25 year certificate — Rubén Correa, Raúl Castrodad, Tomas García, Justo González, David R. Nieves-Ortiz and Jacqueline Ferrer.



30 year certificate — José Cabino, Justo Gonzalez, Alba Nydia Ortiz and Luis Peña.



35 year certificate — Esther Molina



40 year certificate — Ramon Cabrera

Commander's Award for Civilian Service



Nancy Ramos



Pedro Silva

Army Achievement Medal



Victor Sierra



Angel M. Corchado



Deputy to commander speaks to garrison employees at quarterly Buchanan Townhall

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Deputy to the Garrison Commander, Gunnar Pedersen, spoke to garrison employees at Fort Buchanan's quarterly Townhall. Pedersen began his presentation addressing employee development through on-line Army educational courses. Pedersen described the various Army courses that are available and how they can have an impact on your career. He encouraged employees to take advantage of the free training.

Other subjects included in the briefing addressed the fiscal outlook for the garrison. Pedersen re-affirmed that no one's job was in jeopardy and even though the overall budget has been slightly reduced Buchanan is addressing the operational contingencies.

Following his prepared remarks, Pedersen accepted questions from the attendees and answered each person's questions. Also speaking at the function was a representative of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service who provided an insight into the agency and how they fit within the defense establishment.

In keeping with Pedersen's Civilian Education System briefing, below is a more detailed look at some aspects of CES.



Self-Development

To master the profession at every level, leaders must make a lifelong commitment to lifelong learning. FM 6-22, Army Leadership

Self-development begins with a motivated person, supplemented by a concerted team

Experiences/Operational

Balance

Institutional

Self Development

Self-Development Ideas

professional reading, writing program, professional conferences, affiliations with professional organizations, advance schooling, and correspondence courses

Civilian Leader Development Program

•DL open to all Army Civilians	•Team Leaders •First Time Supervisors •Program Mgrs - Project Mgrs	•Supervisors •Managers •Program Mgrs - Project Mgrs	•GS13 above or comp NAF/PWS •Supervisors •Managers •Program Mgrs	•GS 14/15 or comp PB NAF/PWS •Board Selection
<p>Provides progressive and sequential education</p> <p>Senior Service School</p> <p>DOD Defense Leadership & Management Program (DLAMP)</p> <p>Advanced Course (AC) - DL & Resident</p> <p>Manager Development Course (MDC) - DL</p> <p>Intermediate Course (IC) - DL & Resident</p> <p>Basic Course (BC) - DL & Resident</p> <p>Supervisory Development Course (SDC) - DL</p> <p>Action Officer Development Course (AODC) - DL</p> <p>Foundation Course (FC) - DL</p>				

*PB - Pay Band NAF - Non Appropriated Funds Red - On-line courses Blue - New CES courses

CES Equivalency

Civilian Legacy	CES COURSES	Military LD
Civilian Leadership and Development Course	Basic Course	Officer Basic Course, Warrant Officer Advanced Course, and Advanced NCO Course
Organizational Leadership for Executives	Intermediate Course	Captains Career Course, Warrant Officer Senior Course and First Sergeant Course
Sustaining Base Leadership and Management	Advanced Course	Command and General Staff College, Intermediate Level Education, Warrant Officer's Senior Staff Course, and Sergeant Majors Course

Army Civilian Corps Creed

I am an Army Civilian - a member of the Army Team
I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians
I will always support the mission
I provide stability and continuity during war and peace
I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army
I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage
I am an Army Civilian

Summary

"Our goal, is to create Army civilians who, as pentathletes, exemplify the Civilian Core Creed in dealing with the full range of challenges they will face in providing our Soldiers with the resources, quality of life, infrastructure, and other Support they will need to accomplish the Army mission." 2007 Army Posture Statement

Embrace opportunities to grow as leaders

- Become **self-aware** ~ understand your strengths and weaknesses...work to improve upon your weaknesses
- Accept **challenging assignments**, cross-train, take on a difficult task
- Take on a **self-study assignment** ~ participate in eLearning or read a book
- Apply **now** or plan to attend a course in the Civilian Education System

AMSC homepage: <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil>

Applying for CES Equivalency Credit

Course credit may be granted for education/training by providing the following documentation —

1. Equivalent credit is granted to individuals in lieu of CES course attendance for completion of Army civilian legacy and military courses identified in the CES matrix.
2. Individuals requesting equivalency credit must submit a course certificate, training form or copy of ATRRS training record electronically to HQDA G-3/5/7, Civilian Leader Development at civilianleaderdevelopment@hqda.arm.mil or fax to 703-692-4093/DSN 222-4093.

Approved Army Legacy Courses

Foundation Course —

- Intern Leadership Development Course
- Basic Course —
- Leadership Education and Development
- Officer Basic Course
- Basic Officer Leader Course
- Warrant Officer Advanced Course
- Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course or more Advanced level of training

Intermediate Course —

- Organizational Leadership for Executives
- Captains Career Course
- Warrant Officer Senior Course
- First Sergeant Course or more Advanced level of training

Advanced Course —

- Army Management Staff College/Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Course
- Intermediate Level Education
- Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course
- Sergeant Majors Course or more Advanced level of training.

CES DL Only Courses

Distributed Learning (DL) Available Through the Web

Supervisor Development Course	Manager Development Course	Action Officer Development Course
<p>Provides supervisors and managers with civilian administration skills such as work management and basic supervision</p> <p>Required for employees in supervisory and management positions</p>	<p>Assists supervisors and managers with basic skills for managing work and leading people</p> <p>Recommended for all civilians in supervisory and management positions</p>	<p>Designed for civilians who "work actions" on behalf of senior staff officers or commanders</p> <p>Required for interns Completion required before they complete the Intern program</p>

Websites

- Self Development
Searchbox: <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/learningcenter/>
- Self Awareness
Leader development portfolio
<http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/leaderdev/>
CLMB (190 assessment)
<http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/leaderdev/clmb/>
Management Competency Assessment Tool (MCAT)
<http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/leaderdev/mcat/>
- Senior Service College (Applications Training and Leader Dev)
<http://www.ssc.army.mil>

CES Registration

Visit the AMSC Home Page at <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil>

Click on the "Civilian Education System" tab at the top

For Fort Belvoir, contact
Ms. Angela Williams, Registrar
(703) 692-4192, OSA 692-4197
angela.williams@army.mil

For Fort Leavenworth, contact
Mrs. Carrie Cripst, Registrar
(913) 798-3556, OSA 913-3556
carrie.cripst@army.mil



How to monitor your child's development

Maria de los A. Ortiz
EDIS Program Manager

There are different way to measure your child's growth and development.

Did you know there are different ways to measure how well your child is growing and developing? Besides monitoring your child's height and weight, it is just as crucial to keep an eye on how he plays, learns, speaks, behaves and moves. A delay in any of these areas could be a sign of a developmental problem.

The good news is that the earlier you recognize a delay, the more you can do to help your child reach their full potential. The first step is to ask for a developmental screening, which is a procedure used by health care professionals and educational specialists.

A developmental screening will let you know if your child is learning the basic skills when he/she should, and if a comprehensive assessment is needed to confirm or rule out a developmental delay.

The developmental milestones listed below can give you a general idea of what is expected for each age range. We encourage you to take time to observe your child and complete the checklist. If you answer "No" to 3 or more items in any age range, let your pediatrician know. If your child is a military dependent, contact the Fort Buchanan Early Intervention office to request a developmental screening by calling 707-2165.

Developmental checklist —



3 months of age

- Does your baby hold her head steady when placed in a supported sitting position?
- Does your baby lift her head off the floor when placed on her tummy?
- Did your baby keep her hands open rather than fisted when they were first born?
- Does your baby make sounds when looking at people or at toys?
- Does your baby hold a toy if placed in her hand?
- Does your baby watch her hands?

6 months of age

- Does your baby roll from his back to his tummy?
- Does your baby sit independently by leaning on his hands for a minute?
- Does your baby reach and grasp toys?
- Does your baby pass a toy from one hand to the other?
- Does your baby make sounds like "da", "ba" and "ga"?
- Does your baby place toys in his mouth?

9 months of age

- Does your baby get into a crawling position and start to crawl?
- Does your baby sit independently for several minutes without using her hands for support?
- Does your baby respond to her name by turning her head, smiling or looking for you?
- Does your baby respond to the tone of your voice or when you say "no-no"?
- Does your baby bang toys up and down on the table or floor?
- Does your baby pick up small toys with only one hand?

12 months of age

- Does your baby stand alone and start to take a few independent steps?
- Does your baby take a few steps with you holding his hand?
- Does your baby follow simple commands such as "Come here", "Give it to me" or "Give me a kiss"?
- Does your baby say a few words like "Mama", "Dada" or "baba" (bottle)?
- Does your baby bang 2 toys together?
- Does your baby use his thumb and forefinger to pick or pinch small objects like Cheerios?

15 months of age

- Does your child move around the house by walking rather than crawling?
- Does your child crawl up the stairs?
- Does your child point to what he wants?
- Does your child have 5 words in addition to "Mama" and "Dada"?
- Does your child throw a small ball?
- Does your child drop small toys into a container (such as a box or bowl)?

19 months of age

- Does your child walk down the stairs if you hold onto one of her hands?
- Does your child run?
- Does your child point to her body parts when asked?
- Does your child say 2 words that mean different ideas such as "Mommy go" or "baby night-night"?
- Does your child scribble on a piece of paper when given a crayon or pen?

24 months of age

- Does your child walk up at least 2 stairs by himself?
- Does your child jump?
- Does your child name pictures in a book when asked?
- Does your child speak 50 or more words?
- Does your child put things away where they belong?
- Does your child pretend that objects such as blocks or boxes are something else?

30 months of age

- Does your child kick a ball without hold on to something?
- Does your child run well without falling or bumping into things?
- Does your child speak sentences 3-4 words long?
- Does your child know the prepositions of "on" and "under"?
- Does your child turn doorknobs, twist tops or screw off lids?
- Does your child get a chair or box to stand on if something is out of her reach?

36 months of age

- Does your child go up the stairs alternating feet (right foot then left foot)?
- Does your child stand on one foot without holding onto something?
- Does your child tell you what is happening in a storybook?
- Does your child hold a crayon or pencil like an adult?
- Does your child dress himself?
- Does your child use a fork and spoon with little or no spilling?

Your child's development

Maria de los A. Ortiz
EDIS Program Manager

Being a parent is one of the most gratifying, and challenging, experiences one will ever have. There is no doubt; being a parent is one tough job! It's an experience full of rewards, beautiful moments, laughs, and love. However, one of the challenges parents' faces, besides being a "good parent," is learning to be your baby's first teacher.

Your baby learns new things every day. As he takes in the world around him, his brain is making connections that will stay with him for the rest of his life. Your baby will recognize your face and the sound of your voices pretty quickly, and will soon be able to return your smile. So keep smiling! Eventually you'll get a big toothless grin right back!

Every minute your baby is awake, he is learning something new from the people and world around him. He is growing and changing every day, and there are many ways you can communicate and play with him. Remember, babies can be lots of fun!

How to spend quality time with your baby —

- Spend time cuddling. Babies love to be touched and held. Do not be afraid of spoiling your infant by picking him up too much. Holding your baby actually makes her feel comforted. She is fragile, though, so be sure to support her head and neck and do not shake her hard.



- Learn your baby's cues. Sometimes babies do need their time and space because all the sights and sounds can be too much. If your baby moves his eyes away or starts to cry, she may just need some quiet time in her seat or crib. When your baby is ready to play, she will let you know by smiling, reaching out, and moving her eyes towards someone who is talking.

- Make some tummy time. When your baby is three months old, it's important to start giving him some time on his stomach to exercise his neck muscles and help him learn to reach for things. Put him on a soft surface on the ground, such as a blanket or carpet, put toys in front of him, and let him try to reach for them. Remember, though, never to put your baby to sleep on his tummy!

- You baby likes to see. Babies can't see all the colors right away, but they do like to follow things with their eyes. Your baby will like contrast and brightly colored things like mobiles, but most of all, she wants to see your face!

- Your baby likes to hear. Your baby will get used to your voice pretty soon after he is born, and soon after that, he will love hearing new sounds. Babies love music and singing, especially songs that have clapping and rhyme. You can even make them up as you go along! The best way to introduce your child to new words is to talk to him as you do things, even if he can't talk back. Tell him where you are going and what you are doing. Most importantly, read out loud to your baby. Reading should be part of your child's day from the time he is born. Point to and name the pictures in the book.

- Your baby likes to touch. Your baby will start to hold on to you early on — your finger, your hair, watch out for those earrings! But you can also use some simple toys, such as soft books or rattles.

All grown up and ready to go

As your toddler begins to walk and learns new words, she will want to practice all of these things over and over again. Toddlers love repetition and this is how they learn and master new things. Toddlers have lots of energy, are very curious about everything and it can be a challenge trying to keep them busy. Below are a few activities you can try with your toddler that will support his development and maybe even help burn off some of that excess energy!

Activities for you and your toddler —

- Encourage fine motor development. Provide your toddler with fat crayons or non-toxic, washable markers, and let him scribble on paper. This will get him interested in and give him practice drawing, coloring, and writing.



Resource Conservation Recovery Act facility investigations on track at Buchanan

Derrick Stepanof
DPW Environmental Div.

This is the 2nd article of a 5-part series about restoration projects at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

The Resource Conservation Recovery Act, is a federal law that governs the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. It was adopted on Oct. 21, 1976.

This act controls the generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste in a complete manner that has been termed "cradle to grave." RCRA is an amendment of the earlier Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965.

The United States Army follows the RCRA law while providing restoration to their environmental projects. The U.S. Army has a Sustainability/Environmental Management System policy that has made a commitment for the continual improvement of environmental and safety management practices. The Fort Buchanan installation is among hundreds of installations that are taking on the responsibility of contamination caused by past practices and restoring the affected areas for a safe environment.

Currently, the Restoration Program at Fort Buchanan is following a corrective action initiative to address the contaminated areas onsite which is designed to ensure the remediation of hazardous releases and contamination. The United States Environmental Protection Agency mandates corrective action at facilities primarily through permits and orders.

The USEPA has been given the responsibility for administering this law with major components delegated to the states. The state programs generally follow the federal program. To be approved the state program must make requirements at least as strict as those imposed under RCRA.

The RCRA has a correction action program that is designed to ensure the remediation of hazardous releases and contamination associated with RCRA regulated facilities. Currently, USEPA is implementing a set of administrative reforms that are designed to achieve faster, more efficient cleanups at RCRA correction action sites.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 also was a national policy that works with hazardous waste. RCRA, like CERCLA, has provisions to require cleanup of contaminations of hazardous substances that occurred in the past. CERCLA is used when the responsible owner of the contaminated source has not been identified or does not have the financial ability to clean up the site. The CERCLA program is initiated to begin the clean up process and to remove the hazard that will be imminent to human health.

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program was formally established by Congress in 1986 and provides for the cleanup of Department of Defense environmental sites under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. There are two restoration programs — the Installation Restoration Program and the Military Munitions Response Program — under DERP, at active/operating Army installations.

This article will focus on the IRP portion.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command is the program manager for the Army's Active Installation Restoration Program. There is a restoration manager at each army installation to provide onsite support to the USAEC.

The IRP is a comprehensive program created to identify, investigate and cleanup contamination of hazardous material at active/operating army installations. The program addresses contamination caused by past practices (primarily includes sites where contamination occurred prior to 17 October 1986, but are not limited to this date). It does not address contamination caused by current or ongoing installation operations. Contamination caused by current or installation operations after October 1986 is currently addressed under the Compliance Cleanup (CC) program. However, it is anticipated that the CC program will become part of the restoration program in the near future.

Eligible IRP sites include those contaminated by past defense activities that require cleanup under the RCRA programs. The RCRA program contains successive phases that document the process to identify, investigate cleanup

and close the contaminated site. The sites are regulated by both federal and state environmental agencies.

The United States Environmental Protection represents the federal regulator and in Puerto Rico, the state regulator is the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board. One of the principals of Environmental Restoration is to develop effective communication and cooperation with a project management team, including the regulators.

Fort Buchanan currently has two environmental restoration sites under the RCRA and IRP.

The first one is called the Northwestern Boundary Investigation. In January 2005, the USEPA asked Fort Buchanan to investigate the presence of chlorinated solvent detected in the groundwater at the adjacent property located northwest of Fort Buchanan. The USEPA requested for Fort Buchanan to investigate within the installation. This project is administered under the RCRA program and is currently in the RCRA Facility Investigative phase. The investigation included the installation of groundwater monitoring wells installed in a phased approach, followed by geophysical study to narrow down the source location.

The cleanup phase is expected to begin in 2009. This phase will include the Corrective Measure Design and the Corrective Measure Implementation. The Site closure will be complete after long term monitoring, which could begin as soon as 2011 and run 5 to 30 years. The project will receive Closure/Post Closure status from the regulatory agency after specific clean up levels are reached and remedial activities are complete. Cleanup methods will be presented in another informative article on environmental restoration.

The second environmental restoration site is called "The Site Wide Investigation". It is a collective investigative study addressing the concerns that the USEPA has of 13 reported areas where chemicals were reportedly stored or suspected of releases and spills. These 13 sites are located throughout the Fort Buchanan installation. This project is also in the RFI phase. The sampling of soil and groundwater media at these sites began in Octo-



ber 2008 and was completed in February 2009. If impacts to the soil and groundwater are indicated by analytical data, then sites will be tracked individually under the restoration program and addressed areas of concern as per DoD and USEPA clean up guidance. Corrective Measures Studies (CMS) will be performed with Corrective Measure Implemented (CMI) in the construction phase where necessary. If no contamination is found then no further action will be requested and the site(s) will be closed.

Fort Buchanan currently has four active Compliance Cleanup sites. These sites address oil water separators or Underground Storage Tank that formerly contained fuel; and have leaked or have been overfilled thus contaminating the surrounding soil and groundwater media.

These sites were located at former fuel dispensing and fuel powered generators locations.

Fort Buchanan and the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division are fulfilling its mission for the Army by developing effective communication with the regulatory agencies, actively investigating these 3 contaminated sites, and moving toward restoring them for a safe and clean environment at the installation.

For further information, contact Derrick Stepanof, Contractor-ASIS Representative, Restoration Manager at Fort Buchanan, 707-3573 or email to derrick.stepanof@us.army.mil.

10 things you can do to prevent storm water runoff pollution

Ft. Buchanan Environmental Div.

The Fort Buchanan Phase II Storm Water Plan required under the Environmental Protection Agency Storm Water Program relies on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit coverage for a "Small" Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s) like Fort Buchanan's.

The purpose of the Phase II regulation is to provide a flexible approach for reducing environmental harm caused by storm water discharges from point sources that were not regulated before.

Military installations that have a separate storm water sewer system within an urbanized area are considered to be "Small" MS4s. These installations must meet the requirements of the aforementioned rules for compliance with Environmental Protection Agency Storm Water Program.

Requirements include development and implementation of best management practices that reduce pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, protect water quality, and satisfy EPA water quality criteria.

The following are some minimum control measures that you can help us with to prevent storm water runoff pollution —

1. Use fertilizers sparingly, and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters.
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.
3. Provide vegetation coverage for exposed or bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff.
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped, and system inspected regularly.

Clean water is everybody's business.

Prevent water pollution for a sustainable Fort Buchanan.

You can help keep Fort Buchanan pollution free by doing your part.

Text is from Web site www.epa.gov.

For more information, contact the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division at 707-3966.



Joe Bonet

Each year Puerto Rico has a "rainy season." With the rains come several problems associated with runoff, or lack of. As mentioned in the article, residents of the garrison can contribute to the runoff situation by following the diligent efforts listed. Another inherent problem surrounding the garrison is Route 28 which runs along the back of the garrison. Each year, due to heavy rains, Rte. 28 floods over. Because of the slope of the land, the current can be very strong. As a safety reminder, avoid using Rte. 28 whenever possible following a heavy rain. People have been known to drown when exiting their cars after stalling.



Earth in balance — Getting green at Fort Buchanan



Francisco Mendez
DPW Environmental Division

Organizations may choose to pursue a green procurement or purchasing policy for several reasons.

Green procurement can help an enterprise economically as well as lighten its environmental impacts.

Green purchasing also can help organizations improve their efficiency, reduce liabilities, and gain competitive advantage.

The fact is that a green procurement program is an excellent way of finding products with a high price-performance ratio and with improved use rates.

Reduced total costs.

A green procurement program has several advantages for the business community.

Reduced costs are high on the list.

Green purchasing strategies can save organizations money on supplies they need to stay in business.

Organizations that implement a green procurement program have achieved the following cost savings —

- Reduced hazardous management costs (e.g. using less toxic products).

- Reduced operational costs (energy savings from efficient equipment).

- Reduced disposal costs (hazardous and solid waste) by generating less waste and using longer lasting products.

- Reduced repair and replacement costs when using more durable and repairable equipment.

- Reduced employee safety and health costs at the facility with reduced potential liability by improving the work environment and minimizing risks to workers

- Reduced material and energy consumption.

Evaluating a potential purchase by first cost alone can actually incur greater total costs for an organization.

An organization's green procurement program can help identify and reduce hidden costs and develop cost reduction strategies for the entire organization.

Enhanced market position.

Many organizations have also adopted environmental pur-

chasing policies for traditional business reasons such as —

- Recognizing market preferences, and serving customers who have a stated interest in environmentally friendly products and practices.

- Distinguishing an organization and its products from competitors.



- Increasing operating efficiency

- Joining an industry or international market trend to capture market share.

- Improved compliance with environmental regulations.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act directed federal agencies to develop affirmative procurement programs to increase the purchase of items containing recycled material.

Since then, Executive Order 13101, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and the Federal Acquisition Regulations also contain requirements to buy green.

The Energy Policy Act and EO's 13149, 13221, 12845, and 13123 require federal agencies to buy energy efficient equipment and vehicles.

EO 13148 also addresses environmentally preferable purchasing with specific requirements for toxic substances, adhesives, ozone-depleting substances, and landscaping products.

Latest Executive Order 13423 in section 2(d) establishes green procurement principles and reads as it follows; "require in agency acquisitions of goods and services use of sustainable environmental practices, including acquisition of biobased, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient, and recycled-content products."

Ease of implementation

A green procurement strategy is compatible with existing purchasing programs.

Minor policy changes can produce great effects for an organization that is not currently considering long-term costs for each purchase.

What purchaser would argue with eliminating unnecessary purchases or reducing overall costs?

Organizations can easily try implementation on a limited basis.

Organizations can utilize a step-wise approach to implementation.

As the results for early changes are measured and understood, it will be easier to spread the practice to other products and services.

Purchasing professionals have tremendous influence in the market.

Suppliers who value your business will do what they can to accommodate environmental standards you set for the products you purchase.

Most Army, Department of defense and federal procurement agencies can identify environmentally friendly products.

In most cases, you can select green products through their online listings.

Green Procurement online catalogs are available at United States Army Environmental Command at Web site <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/sustainability/gp00.html>.

As a Purchasing Agent at your activity, you are required by EO 13423 to establish such procedures at your workplace.

As such, the DPW Environmental Division through the U.S. Army Center for Health promotion and Preventive Medicine.

For more information, contact DPW-Environmental Division at 707-3522 or Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security at 707-3888.

Dos & Don'ts for pet control in Army Family Housing

Yvette Robles
Army Family Housing

The Army Family Housing area is your home away from home. As such, we embrace the ideology of preserving those things we hold dear like pets. We hope that just as you would preserve your home from the wear and tear pets can bring, the same holds true for the quarters you occupy.

The ownership of pets is limited to two pets in government quarters. One litter is authorized per year, per family, and will be removed from quarters after they are no longer nursing. Additional pets over the limit may be allowed by exception to policy by the Garrison Commander.

All pets kept on post are to be registered within five working days of housing assignment with the Veterinary Treatment Facility. A vaccination record will be maintained upon request to the proper authority. The VTF should be notified when pets are removed from post. All dogs and cats living on post are required to be micro chipped. If your pet is not micro chipped, call the VTF for an appointment and information. Please note that owners must seek and pay for civilian veterinary care for services that the VTF does not provide.

The control of pets is the direct responsibility of its owner. Pets are to be leashed or confined to the premises of the owner and cats will not be allowed to roam. Pets are not allowed to run loose, or inside children's playgrounds, and owners must take the necessary action to prevent damage to lawns and structures. For the safety of all involved,

children are not allowed to walk pets they cannot control.

As a reminder, pets will only be left outside during inclement weather and must be housed in the proper structure. The shelter must be a moisture-proof and windproof structure. The size must accommodate the entire body of the pet to allow it to stand up, turn around, and retention of body heat. The shelter must be of durable material with a solid floor raised at least two inches from the ground. The entrance must be covered by a flexible windproof material, self-closing swinging door, or wind baffle.

To maintain domestic tranquility, occupants who have dogs that continuously bark and disturb neighbors are required to immediately quiet the animal or take it into the house. Army regulations provides clear authority for the removal from quarters of sponsors with pets which become a public nuisance or danger.

Housing residents are required to clean up animal feces daily in their quarter's area and as it occurs while in common areas such as parks and roadways. While walking a dog, individuals must have two plastic bags to dispose of the feces. Placing feces without a plastic bag in trashcans and/or dumpsters is strictly prohibited. Violations are consideration for eviction from government quarters.

Daily policing must be practiced to remove waste deposits and other litter generated by pets and to ensure that pets do not infringe upon the privacy of neighbors. In the event that complaints arise due to uncontrolled pet activities or danger, tenants will be directed to either permanently remove the animal from post or relocate to off post housing.

Residents are responsible for controlling their pets to prevent them from biting or injuring people or other animals, and for preventing their interference with official inspections, reviews, ceremonies, and parades.

In the event of animal bites, provide first aid and report all animal bites to the Military Police and the Rodriguez Army Health Clinic. Animals should be transported to veterinary facility and confined for ten days. Be aware that as the owner of the animal, you are held responsible for any and all charges.

And last but certainly not least, we kindly remind you to humanely dispose of pets when no longer wanted.

For further information, contact the Army Family Housing division at 707-3433/3367.





AHS, Garrison sign BOSS agreement

Pat Ortiz
Antilles High School

Feb. 13, 2009 Antilles High School proudly entered into a united partnership with the Ft. Buchanan Chapter of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program headed by Spc. Tiffany Roman and Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major David Davis.

Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin and Mrs. Domingo, as well as Asst. Superintendent Carmen Arroyo and Antilles High School principal Felix Trinidad, were also on hand to participate in this special home school community partnership initiative.

The BOSS program, as it is typically called, is an initiative begun by the Department of the Army to foster the morale and welfare of the single Soldier. Although the Soldier is tasked with the

mission at hand, concern is also sought for his emotional well being.

It is our hope at Antilles High School, that this formed partnership, will further the mission of the BOSS program as well as mentor our own high school students.

Through tutorials and mentoring sessions, BOSS members became official Pirates. In return, our Pirate students helped to enhance the mission of service to our single Soldiers who work hard daily to complete the mission at hand.

With the amount of smiles and anticipated activities on the board this partnership is sure to be a winner for all... HOOAH!

Further information on the BOSS program can be obtained from Spc. Tiffany Roman by calling 707-3414.

Mentoring and tutoring opportunities are also available at Antilles High School by calling 707- 2301.



Marc McCormick

Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo signs a BOSS agreement between Antilles High School and the garrison as Lourdes Alonso, AHS Motivational program Chairman and Spc. Tiffany Roman, BOSS program president, look on.

Legion launches VetCam for families of Military, Vets — no software needed

El Morro Staff

INDIANAPOLIS — Military troops deployed overseas can now use their webcams to talk with their families back home without having to download software packages that might not pass muster with command cybernet security requirements.

The American Legion has launched "VetCam," a free webcam service that enables U.S. military servicemembers and veterans to talk face-to-face on their personal computers with friends and family by simply registering as a user. Once registered, each user can connect with two webcams and use the service 24/7 from anyplace with an Internet connection.

"Webcam technology has been around for a while, but many required downloading software to make them work," said David K. Rehbein, national commander of The American Legion. "We want our troops, our veterans, and their families to be able to enjoy the pleasure of talking face-to-face with their loved ones anywhere in the world, with just a couple of mouse clicks. Next to actually being there, seeing and talking with your spouse and kids, mom and dad, and best friends are morale boosters prior generations of veterans never had."

To initiate the service, a user will need a webcam or a computer with a built in webcam. Then, just go to www.legion.org, click on VetCams, register and start communicating. Once registered, simply log in at any time to connect.

All members of the United States Armed Forces (active duty, Reserve and National Guard), members of The American Legion, their families and friends are welcome to use this complimentary technology.

With a current membership of 2.6-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs.

Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.



Marc McCormick

Antilles High School honors outstanding honor students

Pat Ortiz & Lourdes Alonso
Antilles High School

Antilles High School recently honored not only its best and brightest for the 1st semester term but also those students who went the extra mile to make Antilles a better place becoming our Students of the Month.

Earlier in the week our principals Felix Trinidad and Harry Hamilton arranged a motivational activity for our students at the Ft. Buchanan Bowling Center. With Luis Torres, the bowling center manager, the kids learned that working hard also brings great rewards. Additional tokens of pride were also given to the students by the Ft. Buchanan Exchange as well as the Puerto Rico National Guard units.

The special activity was attended by the Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin Domingo and Mrs. Domingo; Rochelle Tolentino, General Manager, Post Exchange; DDESS Asst. Superintendent Carmen Arroyo; Antilles High School principals Felix Trinidad and Harry Hamilton; as well as a large turn out of Pirate parents, who were there to cheer their students on.

Judging from what we saw at this award recognition activity, Antilles High School is definitely on its way to continued and highly acclaimed educational standards and success for all students.



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**Annie will be presented by the
Antilles High School Show Choir.**

Annie is a worldwide popular musical.

**The music was written by Charles Strouse
with lyrics by Martin Charnin.**

**Annie will be presented April 24th and 25th in the Antilles
High School Auditorium.
Performances start at 7 p.m.**

AVID students brighten up VA

Pat Ortiz
Antilles High School

AVID students at Antilles High School recently paid tribute to our veterans. Students composed Valentine Day cards and enlisted the help of their fellow classmates in a valentine card writing campaign. More than 400 valentine cards were collected and delivered to the San Juan Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Each year the National Valentine for Vets program asks school children from around the nation to reach out to our veterans. Valentine's Day in hospitals can

be an especially lonely time. A simple card and thoughtful wish can touch a heart and make someone's day a little brighter. From the smiles on our veterans faces, AHS AVID students did their job. Special thanks were given to the students by the volunteer outreach coordinator at the VA Hospital. Valentine's Day was a lot brighter for these special heroes thanks to the AHS AVID students, said Edgardo L. Diaz, Chief, Voluntary Service..





Photos by Leo Martinez

David S. Tindoll, Regional Director, Installation Management Command SouthEast, and IMCOM Command Sergeant Major Charles Durr visited Fort Buchanan and during their stay (right) CSM Durr introduced Tindoll to Soldiers who had been invited to spend lunch time with the director. The Soldiers and Tindoll exchanged questions and answers. (Right) CSM Durr visited the Welcome Center I.D. Card Office to discuss Common Level of Support in relation to the section. Pictured, left to right, are Fort Buchanan Command Sergeant Major David Davis, David Cortes, IMCOM Command Sergeant Major Charles Durr, Sonia Cintron, Efraín Pagán, Master Sergeant William Russell and Domingo Berrios.



Marc McCormick

The Fort Buchanan Army ten-Miler team recently returned from competition at the annual AUSA Ten-Miler race. Once again they turned an excellent performance. Col. Edwin C. Domingo, Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer, met with the team to congratulate them and present them with a Commander's Coin and a certificate. Pictured left to right are Col. Edwin C. Domingo, team members Sgt. Carlos Lopez, Staff Sgt. Saby Cotto, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Garcia and Sgt. Richard Halstead. Standing next to the team are DFMWR Director Dallas Petersen and DFMWR members Mara Clemente and Jerry Hesby.

Child

• Spend time outside. Your toddler will want to run and climb, and the outdoors is a great place for her to do this. Help her climb and play on an age appropriate playground structure. You can also engage your child outdoors by playing with a ball, or introducing her to a bicycle or riding toy that is safe and appropriate for her age and size.

• Use rhythm and rhyme. A great way to stimulate your toddler's language development is with rhythmic rhymes. Sit with him on your knees facing you and recite simple rhymes. Don't worry, if you don't know any, you can make them up as you go along! You can also listen to music and hold his hands and dance.

• Toys and games. At this age, there are many things your toddler can play with. She will like blocks and toys that can be stacked. She may also like push, pull, and riding toys, such as a miniature stroller or cars and trains. You can also engage her with simple puzzles.

She may also like to 'help' you with what you are doing; for

example, if you are cooking, give her some pots and pans to play with.

• Read to your child. Reading to your child is one of the best gifts you can give him. Pick simple sturdy books with bright pictures and let him help turn the pages while you read the words on each page. Wordless books are also great at this age, and you can make up your own story.

This information obtained from the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund Web site.

If you would like to learn more on how to help your child grow, learn and develop, the Educational and Development Intervention Program can help. The Fort Buchanan EDIS program can administer a developmental screening to your infant or toddler (0 to 36 months of age) and clear up any concern that you may have regarding his/her development.

Feel free to call 707-2165 and ask for a free developmental screening.

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At no cost to the individual or their organization, all active duty Soldiers, members of the National Guard Reserves, civilian employees and U.S.M.A. and ROTC Cadets are authorized to access over 1,500 information technology, business skills and interpersonal skills courses, desktop computer skills, Microsoft operating systems to Human Resources, Management and Leadership as well as foreign languages from any location, around the clock 24 x 7. All you need to do is get an AKO account and register. If you have any questions, call 707-3888 or 3546.

The Tax Center is open!

The Installation Legal Office tax center is now open to provide free tax return preparation for eligible legal assistance clients by volunteers and PR Internal Revenue representatives. This service is provided by appointment only so you must call 707-5155\5138 or visit our office at Bldg. 214 to schedule an appointment. Items you need to bring to have your tax returns prepared —

- You must bring photo identification.
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents.
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return.
- Current year's tax package, if you received one.
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099).
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available.
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit (void check if any).
- Stimulus payment amount received last year.
- Other relevant information about income and expenses.
- Total Paid for Day Care.
- Day Care providers Employer Identification Number.

To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms or one spouse must have a power of attorney from the other.

CSM From Page 2

instills the critical leadership skills that is required as we train and grow leaders. As a noncommissioned officer it is our job — your job — to train and lead to accomplish the mission. I can't stress enough how we must continue to train hard and to standard to improve our readiness — the cost of not being ready is paid in blood and lives, and that cost is too high to pay.

Today our nation faces great challenges, and much of the burden facing this great nation has fallen to the volunteers who enthusiastically and freely raised their hand and swore an oath. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise, as NCOs you help make our nation a force for good in the world and for the generations to come.

Our country has in recent years asked a tremendous amount of you and those who serve with and under you; have risen to the occasion.





PRimeros in the News



During the Reserve Officer Association Officer Mid-Winter Conference held at the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, took a brief moment out of his schedule to speak with attendee Lt. Col John Block, Assistant Chief of Staff, 1st Mission Support Command, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.



During a recent 40-hour Combat Lifesaver course held at Ramos Hall, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Sgt. 1st Class Carmen M. Roman and Spc. Rafael Nieves, Soldiers of the 597th Quartermaster Company based in Caguas, Puerto Rico, demonstrate how to properly move a "patient-soldier" who was suffering from head and chest injuries.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John

Mariana Santos-Morales pinned her husband CW5 Jose Rodriguez-Fabiani, the new 1st Mission Support Command Command Chief and Property Book Officer, with his current rank while Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st MSC, affixes his rank to his beret. The ceremony was also attended by Maj. Gen. Charles E. Gorton, commanding general, 81st Regional Support Command based in Fort Jackson, S.C. and 1st MSC Command Sgt. Maj. Marcial O. Felix.



Remembering our Soldiers



In keeping with the Soldiers Creed — "I will never leave a fallen comrade" — Lt. Col. Hector Agosto Rivera, chief of the Logistics Section, 1st Mission Support Command, renders a Soldier's salute to Jose "Chegui" Torres-Rivera, signifying the utmost respect that he and the 4,200 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers of the 1st MSC have for Chegui. It seemed like yesterday when Jose "Chegui" Torres-Rivera was honored by Lt. Col. Lisette Bonano, then Human Resource Officer chief, 1st MSC during the 50th Aniversario de la Incurcion de José "Chegui" Torres-Rivera en el Boxeo Profesional 27 de Mayo 2008" held at Castillo Serralles, Ponce Puerto Rico.



During Battle Assembly, Sgt. Anna M. Perez-Caban's service was recognized with a Certificate of Retirement presented by Maj. Teodoro Rovira, commandant, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 1st Mission Support Command while 1st Sgt. Freddie Blanco prepares Caban's other award, the Certificate of Appreciation. The long sought awards recognized her contribution of honorable service to our country. She has helped maintain the security of the nation during a critical time in its history with a devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with the proud traditions of the Army and military service.

Soldiers, Families efforts keep improving 1st MSC



Elsa Cortes (left), director of 1st Mission Support Command Family Program based at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, explained to more than 40 people made up of family members and the leadership staff from the 1st MSC as well as the 166th and the 210th Regional Support Groups about the Family Program during an Open House held at their office on Feb. 21, 2009. Cortes conducted the Open House so that family members could have an opportunity to meet her staff. The Staff is made up of Ivelisse García, Family Programs assistant, 166th RSG; Vicky Cintrón, Family Programs assistant, 210th RSG; Staff Sgt. Thania Cesareo, Yellow Ribbon Coordinator; Staff Sgt. Julio Medián, Family Programs Sergeant., Sgt. Juan Rivera, Logistic Coordinator, Delma Morales, Senior Volunteer. Though they worked directly for Army Community services, Dr. Vanessa Villafañe and Dr. Nina Martínez are Life Consultants that work closely with the Family Readiness Programs to provide various trainings and services. Cortes said, "This is their la casita. There are computers and printers with internet access available for use." Throughout the facility, Bldg. 1021, there are meeting and training rooms available for use if area Family Group leaders need a place to conduct their training.



Sgt. Jéssica Colón, unit administrator, 1st Mission Support Command, Headquarters & Headquarters Company; Sgt. Anna Guzmán (left), Human Resource NCO, 973rd Quartermaster Company and Staff Sgt. José Pagán (right), motor pool sergeant, 393rd CSSB, participate in a group exercise during recent Suicide Prevention Sustainment Training held at Ramos Hall, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. Topics covered during the training included, but was not limited to, Stress Relaxation Exercises, Suicide Awareness for Leaders, and recognizing factors that lead to suicide.

273rd Transportation Detachment deploys to Iraq



(Left) Staff Sgt. José Suarez, 268th Transportation Company holds a binding tool as Staff Sgt. Juan A. Rodriguez crimps the wire holding 273rd TD's equipment. 1st Lt. Axel Lopez, mobilization officer, 273rd TD and 1st Lt. Geoffrey Pilier-Gonzalez, commander, 390th Sea Port Operation Detachment, look on.

(Right) Spec. Elizabeth Lopez-Collazo, 273rd Transportation Detachment (Movement Control) "pinned" Lt. Col Edwin Correa during an impromptu symbolic "promotion" ceremony at the Luiz Munoz Marin International Airport minutes before her unit mobilized in support Operation Enduring Freedom.



Spec. Edwin Pedroza, 471st Engineering Company, measures the space on the 1st Floor Bldg. 353 just cut in an attempt provide a home to the 46" plasma television seen at his feet. This television will be used in an effort to provide Soldiers of the 1st Mission Support Command with the most current information pertinent to the command.



Proud "Garita" Soldiers of the 471st Engineering Company based at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico put the final touches on a Gazebo built over the course of 12 days. It was a collaborative effort between the installation's Department of Public Works and the 471st. DPW provided the lumber, nails, whiteboard and concrete while the Soldiers provided the labor. Under the watchful eye of Staff Sgt. Emilio Muñoz, who holds the ladder steady for Spec. Edwin Umpierre as he positions shingles for Spec. Edwin Pedroza, who is on the roof, to hammer in place. This teamwork is what accounted for the gazebo being built safely and within the limits set by the command.

First Army Reserve unit activated in U.S. Virgin Islands

512th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control) is activated in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Capt. Anthony John
1st MSC PAO

On the island of St. Thomas, which is the busiest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands and better known as America's Paradise, in Estate Nazareth, the 512th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control) was activated at the Sgt. 1st Class Leonard B. Francis Readiness Center on Feb. 20, 2009.

In attendance of the ceremony were: members of the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard which included the Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Renaldo Rivera and his Command Sergeant Major Barry Fredericks; Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Rudolph Francis, former adjutant general of the USVING; Lt. Col Aubrey Ruan, assistant chief of staff ; CW3 Augustin Webster Command Chief; Lt. Col. Gladys Turnbull 786th CSSB commander; Capt. Clayton Sutton; Sgt. 1st Class Pearlina Jeffers; 1st Lt. Josephine Hector-Murphy, and CSM (Ret) Earl Abramsen.

Representing the United States Virgin Island government were the Honorable Gregory Francis; Lt. Gov., Edouard DeLagarde; Delegate to Congress Honorable Donna Christensen's representative; Honorable Michael Thurland, Senate Vice President and Rules and Judiciary Committee Chairman of the 28th Legislature; Honorable Samuel Sanes, Senate Secretary; Public Safety, Homeland Security and Justice Committee Chairman, Julie Callwood; Senator-at-Large Craig Barshinger's Economic Development, Energy and Technology Committee Chairman representative; Honorable Wayne James, Education, Youth and Culture Committee Chairman; Honorable Terrence "Positive" Nelson, territory's highest vote-getter; Joy Ann Harrigan; Senator Nereida "Nellie" Rivera O'Rielly's representative and Honorable Barbara Petersen, Water Island Administrator.

Representing the U.S. Army Reserve and the 1st Mission Support Command were Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Felix A. Santoni, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Puerto Rico; Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command and his Command Sergeant Major Marcial O. Felix; Lt. Col John W. Block, Assistant Chief Of Staff; Col. Eric Bermudez, Command Executive Assistant; Capt. Pablo Rivera, 346th Transportation Battalion Commander's representative; Master Sgt. Carlos Fuentes, 346th Command Sergeant Major representative; CW2 Milton R. Peña-Cruz, commanding officer, 512th Transportation Detachment and his Senior Detachment NCO, Sgt. Juan A. Ramos-Vega; Chap. (Maj.) Craig Pache; Lt. Col. Juan Guzmán, plans, analysis and integration team chief, 63rd Regional Support Command; Larry Cole, command manager, south east, Force Management Branch, HQ, USARC.

The unit's mission includes being responsible for convoys, bills of lading, scheduling and securing modes of transportation of personnel and equipment, requesting and coordinating transport capability to meet missions, marking and labeling cargo and freight shipments, documenting and inventorying freight, cargo and material shipments, and operating automated data terminal equipment.



Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo advances Spc. Vinnette Chumney, unit administrator, 512th TD, to her current rank during the 512th Transportation Detachment activation ceremony held at SFC Leonard B. Francis National Guard Armory, Nazareth, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, February 20, 2009.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John

Following the activation ceremony of the 512th Transportation Detachment and keeping with Army Tradition, the youngest Soldier present, Spc. Vinnette Chumney was asked to cut the ceremonial cake signifying the union of the U.S. Army Reserves and the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard. Soldiers participating in the ceremony, left to right, were CW2 Milton Peña-Cruz, commander, 512th Transportation Detachment; Command Sergeant Major Barry Fredricks; Brig. Gen. Renaldo Rivera, Adjutant General of the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard; Lieutenant Governor Gregory Francis; Spc. Vinnette Chumney, unit administrator, 512th Transportation Detachment; Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general of the 4,200 U.S. Army Reserve Soldier 1st Mission Support Command based at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and his Command Sergeant Major Marcial O. Felix.



Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command, passes the 512th Transportation Detachment guidon to CW2 Milton Peña-Cruz, signifying his assumption of command of the detachment during its activation ceremony held at the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard's SFC Leonard B. Francis Armory located in Nazareth, St. Thomas Feb. 20, 2009.